FBIS DAILY REPORT

MIDDLE EAST & SOUTH ASIA REVIEW

16 MARCH 1987

Iran

Khomeyni Address — Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeyni denied the existence of a power struggle in Iran in a 14 March speech to government officials carried on Tehran radio. Emphasizing that "everyone around us is making efforts to destroy us from within and crush us from within," he warned against creating discord at any level because the opposition is "looking for something to exaggerate, so as to pit us one against another, from within." Khomeyni stressed that "our religious duty obliges us to prevent it" even if it means sacrificing one person or a group for the benefit of the nation. He urged all strata to support the government and all government and military organs to support each other.

Prime Minister Mir Hoseyn Musavi commented on Khomeyni's speech at the 15 March Majlis session, declaring that "we feel ashamed being faced with the assessments made by the imam of the nation of the government's activities," Tehran radio reported. The imam's words on avoiding discord must be heeded because despite the "despondency" of the enemies regarding a foreign invasion, "they could harm the revolution by this means," Musavi stressed.

Iran and Terry Waite — Iran has called on its officials and friends in Lebanon to persist in finding Anglican Church envoy Terry Waite, Majlis Speaker 'Ali Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani disclosed in a letter to the Archbishop of Canterbury broadcast by Tehran radio 16 March. He thanked the Archbishop for a letter in which the latter expressed readiness to contact Lebanese Christians in an attempt to trace four Iranians who were kidnapped in July 1983, adding that this initiative is a "bright light" that gives credibility to the church and Christianity. The radio also broadcast the Archbishop's letter, which stressed Waite's independence from politics and his faith and respect for Islam, and confirmed the Archbishop's intention of contacting the Lebanese Christians to trace an Iranian captured by Phalangist militiamen.

Comment on Tower Commission — The Tower Commission report on Robert McFarlane's talks in Tehran "gives a true account in certain parts" but in other parts it reads more like a "novel," Prime Minister Mir Hoseyn Musavi stated in a 16 March interview reported by Tehran radio. Earlier, in a Friday sermon reported by IRNA, Hashemi-Rafsanjani declared the main aim of the Tower report was to "mar" Iranian-Soviet relations and precipitate a war with the USSR. When U.S. officials came to Iran they said 36 Soviet Army divisions are poised on the southern border ready to invade Iran and presented a map showing the routes the USSR will use to infiltrate "which we will show to the world," Hashemi-Rafsanjani disclosed

Soviet Delegation's Visit — A Soviet Foreign Ministry delegation led by Lev Isaakovich Mendelevich departed 15 March, concluding a 4-day visit, IRNA announced. Mendelevich pointed out that the USSR is "in favor of a powerful and independent Iran." He praised the "close and independent" bilateral ties, and expressed satisfaction with the results of his visit.

Purchase of U.S. Computers — IRNA issued an official denial that it concluded a deal to buy computers from U.S. firms. An official insisted the "ballyhoo" on the sale resulted from a "difference of interest" of U.S. power factions.

Velayati in Sudan — Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati held talks with Sudanese Prime Minister Al-Sadiq al-Mahdi in Khartoum 15 March, Tehran radio reported, noting that they discussed bilateral relations and international issues. Velayati, who arrived the previous day from Bulgaria and Greece, held a news conference in which he praised "strong and solid" bilateral ties, SUNA noted.

Lebanon

French Hostage — Shaykh Muhammad Husayn Fadlallah stressed in a 15 March speech reported by AFP that it is "forbidden to kidnap or kill an innocent person because one has a score to settle with a head of state." Fadlallah, the "spiritual" leader of Hizballah, was commenting on repeated threats by the "Organization of Revolutionary Justice" (ORJ) to kill French hostage Jean-Louis Normandin because of the French Government's refusal to change its policies on terrorists and dealings with Iraq. The ORJ warned in a 14 March statement that it would pass a death sentence on Normandin within 48 hours, AFP noted.

Security — A man involved in an attempt to assassinate Lebanese Forces (LF) commander Samir Ja'ja' stated that the plot was supervised by the Syrians, masterminded by a brother-in-law of former LF leader Elie Hubayqah, and assisted by former President Sulayman Franjiyah's grandson, according to the clandestine Radio Free Lebanon. Speaking at a news conference in the Christian sector, the man said he had informed the East Beirut authorities of the plan because his conscience had prevented him from carrying it out.

On the Muslim side, Beirut radio reported that Amal and Palestinian representatives reached a new cease-fire in the camps war over the weekend, noting this was agreed at a meeting attended by Brigadier General Ghazi Kan'an, chief of Syrian military intelligence in Lebanon. Kan'an had earlier reviewed the security situation in a statement to the UAE's *Al-Khalij*, asserting that Beirut Airport is now safe enough for Samir Ja'ja' to use if he wishes. He also spoke of an "inclination" in East Beirut toward deploying the Lebanese Army on the contact lines and withdrawing LF militias.

As for southern Lebanon, Radio Free Lebanon reported that Israel has issued a warning to the Lebanese Government through UNIFIL concerning the arrival of large numbers of gunmen in

the south following the Syrian deployment in West Beirut. Israel reportedly warned that it would carry out "scorched earth" operations if the gunmen mount attacks in the security strip.

PLO

PLO leader Yasir 'Arafat accused Syria of preparing a "hellish scheme" to attack the Palestinians in Lebanon, "annihilate" the refugee camps, and expel them from the country, Baghdad Voice of PLO radio reported 14 March. He also asserted that Syria "has declared war on the Palestinian people and the PLO outside of Lebanon."

Tunisia

Following a visit by Libya's Al-Khuwaylidi al-Humaydi, President Habib Bourguiba met with ministers on 13 March to discuss the visit and bilateral relations and issued his "instructions" for their continued development, Tunis radio reported.

The Tunisian press was "unanimous" in welcoming renewed ties with Libya, KUNA pointed out citing several papers. One weekly maintained, however, that "it is now up to the Libyans to show their good intentions," KUNA added.

Libya

Protest to Saudi Arabia — The Foreign Liaison Bureau summoned the Saudi charge 14 March to protest the visit to the Kingdom by General William Crowe, head of the U.S. Joint Chiefs of Staff, and the presentation of a medal to him, Tripoli radio announced.

YAR, Sudanese Visitors — YAR President 'Ali 'Abdallah al-Salih, arrived in Surt 15 March for talks on bilateral relations and Arab unity, Sanaa radio reported. Al-Salih held two closed meetings with Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi the same day, JANA noted. The Libyan leader also received Fadallah Nasr Burmah, visiting Sudanese minister of state for defense affairs, who handed him a message from Al-Sadiq al-Mahdi, Tripoli television reported 13 March.

Chadian Conflict

Chadian National Armed Forces killed 112 Libyans and took 24 prisoner in an attack on the Mogoro-bir Sora road, the Chadian Government claimed in a 13 March communique carried by Ndjamena radio. Libyan forces continued bombing operations, however, and another communique carried by the radio reported one aircraft was downed over Fada 14 March.

According to a high-ranking official quoted by 14 March Khartoum *Al-Siyasah*, a second round of Chadian-Libyan talks will be held within the next 2 weeks, SUNA reported. The paper also claimed that negotiations concluded 12 March "went well."

Egypt

Defense Minister 'Abd al-Halim Abu Ghazalah turned down an invitation to visit Israel amd confer with Israeli Defense Minister Yitzhaq Rabin and other officials, MENA disclosed citing the Paris magazine *Al-Mustaqbal*.

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PFLP's Habash Condemns 'Certain' Violent Acts

NC140800 Paris AFP in English 0741 GMT 14 Mar 87

[Text] Algiers, March 14 (AFP) — Georges Habash, the general secretary of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine (PFLP), said in an interview Friday night that he "disapproved" of hostage taking and of "certain acts of violence".

Interviewed by AFP in Algiers, Mr. Habash said: "Certain acts are harmful to the Palestinian and Arab cause and give the United States and Western Europe an opportunity to accuse Arabs of terrorism."

But he said the campaign against terrorism in Europe and the United States was "not prompted by humanitarian considerations" but by "political motives" and was a "pretext to attack Arab countries hostile to the Camp David accords (reached in 1978 between Israel, Egypt and the United States).

"If the United States and Europe were really concerned with humanitarianism, they would not keep silent about the savage and barbaric crimes committed against Lebanon and the Palestinian people," he said.

On Palestinian-Syrian relations, Mr. Habash said Syria believed "nothing justifies the presence of arms in the (Palestinian refugee) camps in Lebanon." He appealed for "coordination" between Syria's "search for strategic balance" with Israel and the "popular war of liberation" urged by Palestinian leaders.

He said the Syrian intervention in Lebanon was Syria's way of trying to "stop the blood-letting" in Lebanon but he said a Lebanese settlement could not be tied to a resolution of the Palestinian question "which will take much longer".

He said Damascus believed the situation in Lebanon "is closely related to its own internal security" and that it was Syria's "right to ask Lebanon for a privileged relationship guaranteeing that security".

On Algerian attempts to bring about a reconciliation within the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO), Mr. Habash said he hoped the Algerians would pursue their initiative and "not lose heart".

He also justified his movement's opposition to cooperation with Jordan in the search for a Middle East settlement.

He said Jordan was involved in a "joint plan with Israel to share duties" in the occupied territories and wanted to "normalise its relations with Israel before signing" a peace treaty.

The PFLP is demanding the abrogation of the Jordanian-Palestinian accord signed in Amman in February 1985 by PLO Chairman Yasir 'Arafat and King Husayn before it joins in any inter-Palestinian discussions.

"We don't want union of the PLO to last a few months or a year, but a PLO capable of lasting for years, until the establishment of an independent Palestinian state."

"We are ready to negotiate everything but national independence."

'Arafat Reveals 'Conspiracy' Against Camps

JN141920 Baghdad Voice of the PLO in Arabic 1759 GMT 14 Mar 87

[Text] Brother Abu 'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat] has said that seven children from the Shatila refugee camp were martyred. Some of them starved to death and the others were killed by tanks bearing pictures of Nabih Birri and Hafiz al-Asad. He said the Amal gangs and Syrian forces fired at an UNRWA convoy carrying supplies to the Shatila refugee camp while Syrian units began heading for Sidon.

This came in an important and comprehensive speech deliveredby the commander in chief during his meeting with members of the permanent secretariat of the General Federation of Palestinian Writers and Journalists in Tunis. In his speech, Brother Abu 'Ammar revealed the dimensions of the conspiracy to which our people are being subjected. He affirmed that the Syrian-Israeli scheme aims to transfer 265,000 Palestinians from Lebanon to Jordan. Brother Abu 'Ammar revealed the details of a hellish scheme to complete the siege on Sidon and surrounding refugee camps in preparation for turning them into another Shatila according to the Syrian-Israeli agreement reached in the past 72 hours. He said that what the Amal gangs had failed to achieve in the besieged refugee camps was supported by the Syrian regime's massing of 9,000 soldiers. The Zionist forces of invasion would withdraw from Jazzin and hand it over to the Syrian forces and a number of Lebanese Army units.

Brother Abu 'Ammar added that four units from the Syrian 10th Division are currently stationed near Mashgharah, specifically in the area between Mashgharah and Al-Qara'un. These units will advance with their artillery and rockets toward Kafr Falus and thus besiege Sidon from three sides. To the north would be a direct Syrian force where the agent Ghazi Kan'an, head of Syrian intelligence, would establish his headquarters. Another Syrian force would come from the west, specifically from Mashgharah to Jazzin and subsequently Kafr Falus. The Amal gangs and Lahd army would besiege the city from the south and the Israeli Navy would reinforce its coastal siege of the city. Thus, the city of Sidon would eventually become another Tripoli.

This is the first step in the conspiracy to destroy Sidon and annihilate its refugee camps and evacuate 175,000 Palestinian citizens from there, 25,000 Palestinians from Beirut, and around 65,000 from the Tripoli and Al-Biqa' refugee camps. All of them would leave for the unknown by sea just like the Vietnamese. As far as the Tyre refugee camps are concerned, specifically the Al-Rashidiyah refugee camp, after the destruction and annihilation of the other western refugee camps, all signs show that a swift military blow would take place during which the Palestinians would be taken away by cars. Terrorist Sharon revealed this in 1982 when he said: They should be dumped in Transjordan.

Brother Abu 'Ammar revealed that the aim of the first stage of the Syrian forces' deployment in Beirut is to finish off Shatila and Burj al-Barajinah. Despite what is being said daily about the

continuation of the aggression, shelling, and siege and the prevention of the Red Cross and other international organizations from supplying these camps with food and medicines, the media in many fraternal and friendly countries say that security has been established in Beirut. There is no talk of the suffering in our refugee camps as if the death that is taking place in our Palestinian our refugee camps is not part of the Arab map. It seems that we are required to die quietly at the hands of some people who are supposed to support us in overcoming our suffering and tragedy.

Brother Abu 'Ammar said that the Israeli evaluation of what is taking place in Lebanon, especially during the recent Zionist Cabinet meeting on 1 March, confirms our view of the Syrian role. The Israeli evaluation can be summarized as follows:

a. The aim of Al-Asad in deploying his forces in West Beirut is to combat the Palestinian organizations;

b. The military confrontation between the fighters of the organizations in the Palestinian refugee camps in Beirut and the Syrian forces is inevitable;

c. The Syrian leadership has affirmed that it has no intention of leaving.

This step will give Israel a strategic gain in the end and leave the Syrian forces stranded in the Lebanese quagmire unable to undertake any military action against Israel. Syria would be given a distinguished role in Lebanon in return for forgetting about the Golan and turning the Lebanese borders with occupied Palestine into secure borders as is the case in the Golan;

d. Israel would obtain Syria's agreement to conduct reconnaissance flights in Lebanese skies in return for an Israeli agreement to the Syrian deployment up to Sidon. The Israeli Army would intervene if the Syrian Army violated any of these conditions.

Brother Abu 'Ammar said the Syrian regime has declared war on the Palestinian people and the PLO outside Lebanon. Syria has exerted pressure on a number of countries participating in the UN Human Rights Commission in Geneva not to vote in favor of the refugee camps and those besieged in them. This is a purely humanitarian issue which was affirmed by the Syrian regime's representative when he rejected the condemnation of the siege and at the same time called for allowing food and medical supplies to enter the camps. Brother Abu 'Ammar explained: We may be required to die quietly. However, we will continue to adhere to our arms and to the march of our revolution until we achieve victory. He added: Fortunately, you brother writers and journalists represent all the Palestinian factions not controlled by the Syrian intelligence organs. You also represent the conscience and mind of this militant Palestinian people. Thus, the conspiracy and conspirators against our people must be exposed.

Brother Abu 'Ammar concluded his speech by saying: The situation is difficult. However, with our blood, which was shed in the refugee camps, we managed to secure a positive European stand. This blood also achieved the unity of the writers and journalists federation and will achieve the meeting of the PNC through the forces that were unified in the federation at the very least because nationalist and progressive Syria is finished as a result of the existing regime's agentry. The only answer to this conspiracy to which our Palestinian people are being subjected is to convene the PNC as soon as possible.

'Arafat Meets With Arab Ambassadors in Tunis

JN131751 Sanaa Voice of Palestine in Arabic
1600 GMT 13 Mar 87

[Text] Brother Abu 'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat], PLO Executive Committee chairman and commander in chief of the Palestinian Revolution Forces, conferred yesterday with the ambassadors of the Arab countries accredited to Tunisia. He explained to them the tragic developments taking place in the Palestinian camps in Lebanon which have been subjected to aggression in addition to a food and medical blockade for over 5 months by Amal Movement gangs and the forces of the apostate regime.

WAFA reported that Brother Abu 'Ammar asked the ambassadors to convey messages to the Arab leaders urging them to help end the war of annihilation to which the Palestinian children, women, and old people who are besieged in the steadfast camps are being subjected.

Meets French, UK Envoys

JN141658 Sanaa Voice of Palestine in Arabic
1600 GMT 14 Mar 87

[Text] Brother Abu 'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat], PLO Executive Committee chairman and commander in chief of the Palestinian Revolution Forces, met separately with the French and British ambassadors and the Italian charge d'affaires in Tunis today. The *Palestinian News Agency*, WAFA, explained in Tunis yesterday [as heard] that Brother Abu 'Ammar briefed these diplomats on developments in the Palestinian camps in Beirut. Wafa said brother leader Abu 'Ammar appealed to the leaders of these countries, through their ambassadors, to extend assistance so as to end the tragedy of the camps by all means available to them, particularly through the United Nations.

'Urgent' Appeals to SFRY, PRC

LD142232 Algiers Voice of Palestine in Arabic
1702 GMT 14 Mar 87

[Text] Brother Abu 'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat], PLO Executive Committee chairman and commander in chief of the Palestinian Revolution Forces, has addressed two urgent appeals to the Chinese and Yugoslav leaderships to help in stopping the annihilation war to which our people are exposed in the Beirut camps, to lift the siege from these camps, and to allow food and medical supplies to pass to their inhabitants.

Brother leader Abu 'Ammar received the ambassadors of the two friendly countries to Tunisia, and asked them to convey these appeals to their governments. He informed them about the latest situation in the camps.

Brother leader Abu 'Ammar also informed the Chinese and Yugoslav leaderships about the dimensions of the American-Zionist-Syrian conspiracy, which is aimed at besieging Sidon and carrying out a massacre of 195,000 Palestinians there and also of the fraternal Lebanese people.

In his talk with the two ambassadors, brother leader Abu 'Ammar concentrated on the tragic situation within the camps, on the dangers threatening their inhabitants as a result of the continuation of the double siege imposed by the Amal gangs of Birri, and the Syrian troops, which entered Beirut 3 weeks ago.

Brother Abu 'Ammar pointed out that the aggressive sides are still continuing their conspiracy as the camps are still exposed to shelling and siege, which obstruct the passage of food and medical supplies, and which in turn led to the spread of serious plagues such as typhoid, which is spreading in Shatila.

The Yugoslav ambassador reiterated his country's continuous support to the Palestinian people and the PLO. He also lauded the efforts of the brother commander in chief and his wise command of the struggle in numerous fields.

The PRC ambassador reiterated his countries support to the Palestinian people and the PLO. He stressed that China appeals for lifting the siege on the Palestinian camps and giving guarantees for the restoration of normal conditions to these camps. He also said that the PRC anxiously follows up the grave situation of the Palestinian camps. The PRC Government has instructed its representatives at the UN Security Council and other organizations to follow up these issues.

'Arafat Given Message From Cape Verdian President

JN152022 Sanaa Voice of Palestine in Arabic
1600 GMT 15 Mar 87

[Text] Brother Abu 'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat], PLO Executive Committee chairman and commander in chief of the Palestinian Revolution Forces, has received the Cape Verdian deputy prime minister who gave him a written message from the Cape Verdian president. The message deals with the latest developments in the Middle East. In his message, the president expressed vehement denunciation and condemnation of the massacres and plots to which the Palestinian people in their camps in Lebanon are being subjected. He reaffirmed his country's support for the just struggle the Palestinian people are waging under their sole legitimate representative, the PLO.

Brother Abu 'Ammar and the [Cape Verdian] deputy prime minister reviewed the latest political developments in the region, particularly the difficult situation being experienced by the Palestinian people in the occupied territory as well as the military, supply, and medical blocade of their camps in Lebanon.

Attending the meeting on the Cape Verdian side was (Conta Mani), adviser to the prime minister, and on the Palestinian side were Brothers Hani al-Hasan, Fatah Central Committee member, and Salman al-Hirfi, adviser for African affairs.

BAHRAIN

Amir Receives Egyptian Minister of State
JN130947 Manama WAKH in Arabic 0755 GMT 13 Mar 87

[Excerpt] Manama, 13 Mar (WAKH) — His Highness Shaykh 'Isa ibn Salman Al Khalifah, amir of Bahrain, received in Manama today 'Adli 'Abd al-Shahid, Egyptian minister of state for emigration and Egyptians abroad, and the accompanying delegation currently visiting Manama.

During the meeting, his highness hailed the fraternal relations between Bahrain and Egypt, describing them as historic. He stressed Bahrain's interest in promoting these relations in various fields. His highness the Bahraini amir also lauded Egyptian President Husni Mubarak's positive, constructive role in various Gulf and Arab issues as well as his endeavors to serve the Arab nation.

The Egyptian minister affirmed to his highness the Bahraini amir that Egypt is interested in strong cooperation with Bahrain in all fields. [passage omitted]

U.S. Admiral Departs Manama Following Visit
JN130941 Manama WAKH in Arabic 0750 GMT 13 Mar 87

[Text] Manama, 13 Mar (WAKH) — Admiral William Crowe, chairman of the U.S. Joint Chiefs of Staff, left Manama this morning following a visit to Bahrain lasting several days. He was seen off on departure by Staff Major General Shaykh Khalifah ibn Ahmad Al Khalifah, chief of staff of the Bahrain Defense Force, and Sam Zakhem, U.S. ambassador to Bahrain.

KUWAIT

Foreign Minister Receives Al-Qadhdhafi Message
LD141615 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 1323 GMT 14 Mar 87

[Text] Kuwait, 14 Mar (KUNA) — Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad al-Jabir, Kuwaiti deputy prime minister and foreign minister, today received a Libyan envoy, Muhammad Bashir al-Mughayribi, in a courtesy visit. The audience was attended by the charge d'affaires of the Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriyah Embassy [as heard] to Kuwait, Hassunah al-Shawush.

Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad said Al-Mughayribi was visiting the country to deliver a message from Libyan leader Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi to the amir of Kuwait. He added that during the audience, a review was made of bilateral relations in particular and Arab conditions in general.

Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad has also received a delegation of dentists attending the 4th conference of the Kuwaiti Dentistry Society.

UK Official Arrives on 'Fact-Finding Mission'
LD141449 Kuwait KUNA in English 1334 GMT 14 Mar 87

[By Saleh Nazal]

[Text] Kuwait, March 14 (KUNA) — Kuwait is seeking an active British role to end the Gulf war and settle other problems in the region.

Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Sa'ud Muhammad al-'Usaymi, received today visiting assistant undersecretary at the British Foreign Office for Mideast Affairs David Miles for talks on ending the Gulf war and other issues of interest to the region.

Before conferring with Al-'Usaymi, Miles had a two-hour meeting with Undersecretary of Foreign Affairs Majed al-Shahin.

Responsible sources at the Foreign Ministry here told newsmen that Miles, who is slated to visit Iraq and Bahrain, is on a fact-finding mission to explore views of officials in the region on a set of cases, in the forefront of which comes the Iraq-Iran war, the Mideast question and Lebanon.

The talks, added the sources, also covered bilateral relations and means of enhancing these relations in various spheres, in addition to issues of mutual interest.

Emphasis was stressed on the importance of a British role in finding solutions to the problems of the region, the sources pointed out.

Britain, noted the sources, wields considerable clout in international affairs being a permanent member in the Security Council, let alone Britain's traditional historical relations and its good reading on the intricacies and developments of the region.

Within that context, the source said, Kuwait has urged Britain to undertake its role and assume its historic responsibility particularly in finding a speedy and peaceful finale to the Iraq-Iran war.

Kuwait, added the sources, also prodded Britain to intensify its endeavors with all regional and international parties involved in the Gulf war, in order to expedite a settlement.

PDRY

Al-'Attas Interview With Bulgarian TV Reported
EA152134 Aden Domestic Service in Arabic 2030 GMT 14 Mar 87

[Text] The People's Republic of Bulgaria broadcast a television interview this afternoon in which Brother Haydar Abu Bakr al-'Attas, Political Bureau member and Supreme People's Council Presidium chairman, expressed happiness and extended greetings to the friendly Bulgarian people, wishing them sustained progress and prosperity. He also hoped that relations between the two countries and peoples would continue to progress.

In the interview, Brother al-'Attas explained the three principal tasks currently facing our people, the first being the elimination of the negative aftermath of the 13 January bloody abortive coup conspiracy that inflicted great losses on our people at all levels. He said great efforts had been and were still being made in this respect. He stressed that great success had been achieved in the consolidation of the internal front and the national unity of the party and the people. The second task was to confront the economic issue by finding practical solutions, developing the productive sectors, and concentrating on research and prospecting for oil and mineral resources. The third task was to draw up a financial analysis of the forthcoming stage and the events of the 13 January conspiracy, which would be discussed by the party congress to be held in the middle of this year.

Brother al-'Attas also said the Third YSP Congress had defined the future trends for the country's development, but the conspirator 'Ali Nasir Muhammad and his gang had plotted the 13 January conspiracy immediately after that congress. He said the country had passed through the dangerous stage and the situation had normalized. The problems of the conspirators had been dealt with through the general amnesty decree apportioning responsibility for the events to the few principal elements that planned and executed the conspiracy.

The brother chairman of the Presidium stressed that our country's relations with neighboring countries are good, and said that Democratic Yemen was eager to have good relations with all countries on the basis of mutual respect. He commended the developing relations with socialist countries, primarily the USSR.

He also referred to the success of the elections for the Supreme People's Council and People's Local Councils and to the high proportion of voters who had participated in them.

He also referred to the continuing work with the brothers in the northern part of the country toward achieving a unified Yemeni nation by peaceful means.

QATAR

UK's Lord Trefgarne Arrives in Doha 15 March

JN152120 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1735 GMT 15 Mar 87

[Text] Doha, 15 Mar (WAKH) — Lord D.G. Trefgarne, British minister of state for defense support, and his accompanying delegation arrived in Doha from Abu Dhabi this evening on a 1-day visit to Qatar. The British minister's visit is part of a tour of countries in the region.

SAUDI ARABIA

French Interior Minister Pasqua Arrives for Talks

LD131828 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 1745 GMT 13 Mar 87

[Excerpt] Riyadh, 13 Mar (SPA) — His Excellency French Interior Minister Charles Pasqua arrived in Riyadh this evening on a 4-day visit to the Kingdom at the invitation of His Royal Highness Interior Minister Prince Nayif ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz who was at the forefront of those at King Khalid International Airport to welcome the French interior minister. [passage omitted]

Meets With Amir

LD141239 Riyadh Domestic Service in Arabic 1030 GMT 14 Mar 87

[Text] His Royal Highness Salman ibn al-'Aziz, amir of the Riyadh region, met in his office this morning with His Excellency French Interior Minister Charles Pasqua and the delegation accompanying him who are currently visiting the Kingdom. During the meeting, the two sides discussed relations between the two countries.

The French minister praised the bilateral relations existing between the Kingdom and France. He also indicated that the recent exhibition on the Kingdom held in Paris had greatly contributed to consolidating the relations between the two countries and acquainting the French people with the Kingdom's heritage and its comprehensive development in various fields.

The meeting was attended by the French ambassador to the Kingdom, Jacques Berniere, and the director general of the Relations and Orientation Department of the Interior Ministry, Dr Sulayman al-Mazru'.

Holds Talks With Al-Faysal

LD151147 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 1120 GMT 15 Mar 87

[Excerpt] Riyadh, 15 Mar (SPA) — Saudi Foreign Minister Prince Saud al-Faysal received French Interior Minister Charles Pasqua in his office this morning.

During the meeting, discussions covered relations between the two countries in various fields and ways to improve cooperation between them. The discussions also covered regional problems and ways of finding practical solutions to them as well as the efforts exerted by the two countries in this respect. The meeting centered in particular on the means to develop relations between France and the Saudi Arabian Kingdom and to increase ties between them. [passage omitted]

Deputy Defense, Aviation Minister Off to Sweden

LD161151 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 1100 GMT 16 Mar 87

[Text] Riyadh, 16 Mar (SPA) — Prince Fahd ibn 'Abdallah, assistant minister of defense and minister of civil aviation, left Riyadh at noon today for Sweden on a 3-day official visit at the invitation of the Swedish deputy minister of foreign trade.

UAE

Chief of Staff Confers With UK's Lord Trefgarne

JN141003 Manama WAKH in Arabic 0940 GMT 14 87

[Text] Abu Dhabi, 14 Mar (WAKH) — Staff Major General Muhammad Sa'id al-Badi, chief of staff of the UAE Armed Forces General Command, received here today Lord D.G. Trefgarne, British minister of state for defense support, who arrived here this morning on a visit during which he will meet with a number of Armed Forces officials. They discussed bilateral relations and issues of mutual interest.

YAR

Salih, Delegation To Visit Libya, Hold Talks

JN141329 Sanaa Domestic Service in Arabic 1200 GMT 14 Mar 87

[Text] A responsible source at the Presidency Secretariat has announced the following:

At the brotherly invitation of Brother Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi, leader of the Libyan 1 September revolution, Brother Colonel 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, president of the Republic, commander in chief of the Armed Forces, and secretary general of the General People's Congress, will pay an official visit to the fraternal Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriyah lasting several days. He will be accompanied by a high-level official and popular delegation.

During the visit, the brother president will hold cordial and brotherly talks designed to develop the firm relations between the two fraternal countries.

Saudi Minister Delivers Crown Prince's Message

JN151104 Sanaa Domestic Service in Arabic 0430 GMT 15 Mar 87

[Text] Brother Colonel 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, president of the Republic, commander in chief of the Armed Forces, and secretary general of the General People's Congress, received Saudi Education Minister Brother Dr 'Abd al-Aziz al-Khuwaytir yesterday evening. The Saudi Minister conveyed a message to the president from his brother His Highness Prince 'Abdallah ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz, the Saudi regent, on brotherly bilateral relations and a number of issues of common interest.

The meeting was attended by His Excellency Brother 'Ali al-Qusaybi, Saudi Arabia's ambassador in Sanaa.

Abu Ghazalah Reportedly Declines To Visit Israel
NC141738 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1615 GMT 14 Mar 87

[Text] Paris, 14 Mar (MENA) — The Paris-based Arabic magazine *Al-Mustaqbal* has disclosed that Field Marshal 'Abd al-Halim Abu Ghazalah, deputy prime minister and minister of defense, has turned down an invitation to visit Israel. He had been invited to confer with Israeli Defense Minister Yitzhaq Rabin and other military officials as part of the joint Egyptian-Israeli committee established by the Camp David Accord signed by both countries in 1979.

Official: Nothing Hidden on Libyan Plane Landing
NC141729 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1700 GMT 14 Mar 87

[Text] Tunis, 14 Mar (MENA) — Mrs Taysir Fahmi, an information official at the Egyptian interest section in Tunis, has affirmed that the Egyptian Government has not hidden anything with regard to the Libyan military plane that recently landed at an Egyptian airport. All the correct information about this incident has been published, she added.

In an interview with the Tunisian weekly *Al-Tasaddi*, published today, Mrs Fahmi stated that as soon as the Libyan plane entered Egyptian airspace, its crew requested political asylum and permission to land at an Egyptian airport. The Civil Aviation Authority has recordings of this request, she noted.

The information official said that Egypt is doing its best to settle this issue without creating tension. However, she asserted that Egypt will never hesitate to give political asylum to anyone who requests it. This is a sacred matter with deep roots in noble Egyptian traditions. It has nothing to do with political differences, she declared.

Economy Minister To Visit Moscow for Trade Talks
NC151213 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1115 GMT 15 Mar 87

[Text] Cairo, 15 Mar (MENA) — Dr Yusri Mustafa, minister of economy and foreign trade, has said he met with President Mubarak today to review the issues he will be discussing during his visit to the Soviet Union. Mustafa noted he will leave for Moscow on Tuesday. He will spend 6 days in the Soviet Union, at the head of a delegation representing various economic sectors. A 5-year long-term trade agreement will be concluded, he said. Mustafa added that during his visit to Moscow, he will examine amendments to be made to the trade protocol between Egypt and the Soviet Union that is in effect for the current year. As a result of the amendments, the volume of trade will be increased. Dr Mustafa also said several economic topics concerning the two countries will be discussed.

Commenting on President Mubarak's meeting with Mr Quinton, chairman designate of the Barclays Bank group in the United Kingdom, the economy minister said the two had discussed economic relations between Egypt and Britain. He added that the Barclays Bank chairman praised Egypt's economic policy and President Mubarak's efforts to achieve economic and political stability in Egypt. Dr Yusri Mustafa quoted Mr Quinton as saying the Egyptian economy is stable and developing, and that current economic difficulties will be overcome.

Mubarak, Officials Discuss Visit
NC151002 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0940 GMT 15 Mar 87

[Text] Cairo, 15 Mar (MENA) — President Husni Mubarak met in his office in Heliopolis this morning with Prime Minister Dr 'Atif Sidqi, Minister of Economy Dr Yusir Mustafa, Director of the President's office for Political Affairs Dr Usamah al-Baz, and Egypt's Ambassador to Moscow Salah Basyuni.

Dailies Discuss Trip
NC160747 Cairo MENA in English 0715 GMT 16 Mar 87

[Excerpts] Cairo, March 16 (MENA) — President Husni Mubarak, the prime minister, the economy minister, the director of the President's Office for Political Affairs and the Egyptian ambassador to the Soviet Union discussed preparations yesterday for the talks the Egyptian economic delegation will hold in Moscow on trade between the two countries and settlement of military debts due by Egypt, report *Al-Ahram* and *Al-Akhbar* in their top billing and leading front-page stories, and *Al-Jumhuriyah* in its second lead story.

According to *Al-Ahram*'s diplomatic reporter, an agreement is expected to be signed on a final settlement of military debts owing by Egypt to the Soviet Union that would provide for the abolition of interest of these debts. The rate of interest on these debts is two per cent and Egypt stopped payment against these debts ten years ago, says the newspaper.

Al-Akhbar learns that the Soviet Union said it was willing to reschedule Egypt's debt to spread repayment over 25 years including six years of grace and to arrange a revised rate of exchange, without reflecting on Egypt's debts but which would help increase trade between the two countries.

The newspaper says Egypt agreed with Sudan on increasing the accounting dollar rate of exchange by 40 per cent, providing Egyptian exporters with an incentive to trade with the Sudanese market. [passage omitted]

The Moscow talks will include development of the iron and steel complex at Helwan to increase its annual production capacity to 2.5 million tons, reports *Al-Ahram*.

The paper quotes Egyptian Ambassador to the Soviet Union Salah Basyuni as saying that he delivered to Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev before coming to Cairo a message from President Mubarak. Basyuni said he would leave for Moscow today to attend the Egyptian-Soviet talks.

President Mubarak, he added, had given the delegation going to Moscow full directives with regard to all the matters to be taken up in the talks scheduled to begin on Wednesday, which will include adding new quotas for exports and imports to those agreed on in January. Signing a trade protocol allowing for doubling the size of trade between the two countries and intro-

ducing new Egyptian products into the Soviet market during the coming five years will also be discussed, said Basyuni.

He further said the Egyptian economy minister will inform the Soviet side of the new rate of exchange which will be applied to trade exchange to result in a major increase in exports and imports and realize a reasonable amount of hard currency receipts. [passage omitted]

Cooperation Protocol Signed With PRC 15 March
NC152038 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1830 GMT 15 Mar 87

[Text] A scientific and technical cooperation protocol between Egypt and the PRC for the 1987-1988 period was signed at the Foreign Ministry today. Ambassador Hasan Shash, director of the Foreign Ministry's Cultural Relations Department, signed on behalf of Egypt, while the director of the PRC Foreign Ministry's International Organizations and Affairs Department signed for China. The agreement focuses on ways to promote bilateral relations, particularly in the fields of health, irrigation, agriculture, land reclamation, light industries, and transport.

Ambassador Hasan Shash stated that Egypt is considering a number of agreements with friendly countries with the intention of furthering cooperation in cultural and scientific areas. He noted that the agreement signed with the PRC today falls within the framework of these efforts.

Al-Janzuri, Romanian Trade Minister Discuss Ties
NC151414 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1335 GMT 15 Mar 87

[Text] Cairo, 15 Mar (MENA) — During his meeting today with Traian Dudas, Romanian minister of foreign trade and international economic cooperation, Dr Kamal al-Janzuri, deputy prime minister and minister of planning and economic cooperation, discussed ways to bolster economic cooperation and trade between Egypt and Romania.

During the meeting, a timetable was drawn up for the implementation of new projects in the Al-Hamrawin phosphate company and the Al-Maks power plant. Cooperation in petroleum, agriculture, reconstruction, and housing was also agreed upon.

The two officials also discussed opportunities for bilateral cooperation in the production of buses and electric transformers, and in the assembly of electric motors, the greasing oil project in Suez, and the metals project in Al-Sadat City. The Romanian Minister is visiting Cairo in connection with the Cairo International Fair, which opened yesterday.

Sudanese Trade Minister Arrives for Talks
NC150857 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0830 GMT 15 Mar 87

[Text] Cairo, 15 Mar (MENA) — Muhammad Yusuf Abu Harirah, Sudanese minister of trade, has arrived in Cairo from Khartoum on a 2-day visit to Egypt, in response to an invitation by Minister of Economy Dr Yusri Mustafa.

During his stay, the Sudanese minister is scheduled to visit the Cairo International Fair, and to hold discussions with Egyptian officials on bilateral trade relations.

Ghali Sees Off Malian Foreign Minister
NC130824 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0745 GMT 13 Mar 87

[Text] Cairo, 13 Mar (MENA) — Malian Foreign Minister Modibo Keita left Cairo this morning following a 2-day visit to Egypt, during which he led his country's delegation to the African mini-summit that was held in Cairo the day before yesterday. He was seen off by Butrus Ghali, minister of state for foreign affairs.

Zairian President Mobutu Departs 13 March
NC130944 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 0900 GMT 13 Mar 87

[Text] Zairian President Mobutu Sese Seko and his wife left Cairo this morning. He was seen off at the airport by President and Mrs Mubarak, Prime Minister Dr 'Atif Sidqi, Deputy Prime Minister Dr Kamal al-Janzuri, a number of ministers, and members of the staff of the Zairian Embassy in Cairo. The Zairian president was accorded an official farewell ceremony.

Ugandan President Leaves for Home 13 March
NC130947 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0920 GMT 13 Mar 87

[Excerpt] Ugandan President Yoweri Museveni left Cairo for home this morning after representing his country at the African minisummit that was held in Cairo on Wednesday. President Husni Mubarak saw off the Ugandan guest at Cairo airport, where he was accorded an official farewell ceremony. [passage omitted]

13 Muslim Fundamentalists Acquitted of Arson
NC142208 Paris AFP in English 2145 GMT 14 Mar 87

[Text] Cairo, March 14 (AFP) — Thirteen members of an Egyptian Moslem fundamentalist group were acquitted on Saturday on charges of burning down video clubs and bars in the Mediterranean port of Alexandria, Egyptian newspaper said here in their Sunday editions.

The reports did not say when the alleged attacks took place, and there was no immediate identification of the group.

Last August, other groups of suspected Moslem fundamentalists ran through a rundown district of Cairo, setting fire to bars, video clubs and threatres. A total of 65 people are facing trial in connection with that incident.

AL-AKHBAR Warns Against 'Sectarian Incidents'

NC160653 Beirut Voice of National Resistance in Arabic 0600 GMT 16 Mar 87

[Text] Recent successive sectarian incidents in upper Egypt are causing utmost concern among Egyptian authorities. In its front page editorial yesterday, *Al-Akhbar* warned against the dangers inherent in such incidents. The paper condemned the attitude of men of religion, politicians, and philosophers who have remained silent about these incidents, which have assumed a grave, sectarian aspect. *Al-Akhbar* went on to criticize men of religion and politicians, especially ruling party officials, who are completely preoccupied with elections and votes, although each incident should have been enough to prompt them to end their silence. The paper affirmed that the incidents are taking place in a tense social atmosphere and are threatening Egypt's national unity.

Fire in Asyut Prompts State of Emergency

NC141126 Tripoli Domestic Service in Arabic 1100 GMT 14 Mar 87

[Text] A huge fire has broken out near a vital industrial complex in Asyut in southern Egypt. Reports from the Egyptian capital indicate that the main oil depot in Asyut, plus some textile factories and electric power plants, were within the perimeters of the fire. The same reports add that a state of emergency has been declared in the area, which has been surrounded by special forces to isolate the scene. Hundreds of firefighters and Army troops have been mobilized in an attempt to quench the still blazing fire.

Trade Minister Gives Details of New 5-Year Plan

JN142037 Kuwait AL-SIYASAH in Arabic 12 Mar pp 1, 21

[Excerpt] Bahrain — 'Izzat Ghazi, counselor at the Egyptian Ministry of Economy and Foreign Trade has revealed details of Egypt's new 5-year plan for 1987-92 to *Al-Siyasah* prior to the end of his visit to Bahrain and the beginning of the visit to Kuwait of the delegation he is leading. He said investment in the plan, details of which are being announced for the first time, total 45.5 billion Egyptian pounds and will cover investment in various fields while attaching great importance to the private sector.

Ghazi said that 5.7 billion pounds, or 12.5 percent of allocations for the plan, will be earmarked for the agricultural sector; 12.1 billion pounds, or 26.6 percent of the plan's allocations, will be earmarked for industry and mining; 1.73 billion pounds, equivalent to 3.5 percent of the plan's allocations, will be earmarked for petroleum and petroleum products; 5 billion pounds or 11 percent will be allocated for electricity; 1 billion pounds or 2.2 percent will be earmarked for contracting; 5 billion pounds or 11 percent will be earmarked for transportation and storage; 3 billion pounds or 7 percent will be earmarked for the Suez Canal; 0.14 billion pounds or 0.3 percent will be earmarked for finance and insurance; 0.5 billion pounds or 1.1 percent will be earmarked for trade; 0.7 billion pounds or 1.5 percent will be earmarked for hotels and restaurants; 7.2 billion pounds or 15.8 percent will be earmarked for housing and real estate; 3.2 billion pounds or 6.9 percent will be earmarked for public services; and 3.3 billion pounds or 6.6 percent of Egypt's new 5-year plan's allocations will be earmarked for other services. [passage omitted]

Communiques Detail 12-15 March Fighting

Attack on Al-'Amiq Repulsed

JN131726 Baghdad Voice of the Masses in Arabic 1700 GMT 13 Mar 87

[Communique No 2,602 issued by the Armed Forces General Command on 13 March 1987]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. Our valiant Armed Forces inflicted further losses on the Zionist Iranian regime's forces in equipment and weapons. The following is a summary of the activities of last night and today:

1. The glorious VII Army Corps men continued to punish the criminal Khomeyniites, to kill their scoundrels, and to destroy their weapons, equipment, vehicles, and engineering equipment through their strong support for their comrades-in-arms in the III Army Corps sector. They also damaged two shovels [preceding word in English], destroyed a vehicle and killed 12 enemy personnel, destroyed a number of gun emplacements and infantry positions and killed a number of scoundrels in them, and destroyed a tubular launcher and eight ammunition dumps.

2. Our valiant units in the III Army Corps sector directed intensified and concentrated fire at enemy positions opposite them, at assembly areas behind enemy lines, and at the enemy's weapons and equipment, inflicting heavy losses on it all last night and today. They also destroyed four shovels, a bulldozer, and five vehicles, damaged one vehicle and killed or wounded its personnel, killed several other enemy personnel, destroyed a number of gun emplacements and infantry positions and killed several Khomeyniites in them, and destroyed six ammunition dumps and a heavy machine gun.

3. The enemy sent a number of its boats to try to approach the Al-'Amiq port. The port's brave force confronted them and showered them with a hail of rockets and bullets from various types of weapons and forced them to flee.

[Signed] The Armed Forces General Command, 13 March 1987

Communique on 13-14 Mar Fighting

JN141742 Baghdad Voice of the Masses in Arabic 1700 GMT 14 Mar 87

[Communique No 2,603 issued by the Armed Forces General Command on 14 March 1987]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. Our valiant Armed Forces fighting on behalf of the great Iraqi people with all their honor and loyalty and with all their arms and units will remain the impregnable barrier protecting the land against the desecration of the apostate enemies. The following is a summary of the activities of last night and today:

1. Our victorious units in the III Army Corps sector have continued to deliver painful blows to the Khomeyniite scoundrels with artillery, tanks, mortars, and other weapons, and have inflicted on the aggressors losses in life, equipment, and arms including: the destruction of 14 vehicles of various kinds and the damaging of 2 others, and the destruction of 6 ammunition depots, a tubular launcher, a number of infantry emplacements and the killing or wounding of their occupants.

2. Our heroic men in the VII Army Corps sector have continued their heroic operations to destroy the enemy. They managed to silence a number of enemy sources of fire, destroyed enemy engineering works, and inflicted on the enemy losses in life, equipment, and hardware. Elsewhere in the sector, seven ammunition depots were destroyed, six enemy soldiers were killed, and two shovels [preceding word in English] and a vehicle were destroyed.

3. An enemy patrol attempted to approach the positions of one of our forward units in the IV Army Corps sector east of Maysan. The enemy patrol was attacked with weapons and forced to flee after sustaining a number of dead and wounded. Elsewhere in the sector, seven enemy soldiers were killed and two infantry emplacements and an observation post were destroyed.

4. One vehicle, an observation post, two infantry positions, and an ammunition depot were destroyed in the II Army Corps central sector.

[Signed] The Armed Forces General Command, 14 March 1987

2 Hovercrafts Captured

JN151728 Baghdad Voice of the Masses in Arabic 1700 GMT 15 Mar 87

[Communique No 2,604 issued by the Armed Forces General Command on 15 March 1987]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. Through their bountiful and priceless offerings the lofty Iraqi people and their valiant Armed Forces reaffirm that this glorious country will remain Arab, will safeguard the divine values, and will send the oppressors into the crematorium of death.

The following is a summary of the activities of last night and today:

1. Continuing to wipe out the Khomeyniite rogues and their weapons and military hardware, our valiant units opened intensive fire on the areas where the enemy is stationed opposite our units in the III Army Corps sector and achieved the following:

a) Three shovels [preceding word in English] and two Poclane drilling machines were destroyed;

b) Several infantry positions and weapons emplacements were destroyed and several of their occupants killed;

c) A boat was destroyed and two hovercrafts captured;

d) Two vehicles were destroyed and three others damaged, and their occupants were either killed or wounded;

e) A heavy machine gun and several ammunition dumps were

destroyed, and enemy positions were burned.

2. The VII Army Corps spared no effort in inflicting certain death on the Zionist Khomeyniites and destroying their weapons, equipment, and military hardware. This corps continued to give splendid support to the III Army Corps and inflicted the following losses opposite its courageous units' positions:

a) An enemy group was engaged in battle and several of its members were killed;

b) One shovel and one artillery postiion were destroyed and three rogues were killed;

c) Several enemy infantry and machine gun positions were destroyed and their occupatns killed;

d) One 106-mm gun was destroyed and the vehicle carrying it destroyed.

3. One of our units in the IV Army Corps sector east of Maysan pounded an enemy group, killing six enemy soldiers while the rest fled.

[Signed] The Armed Forces General Command, 15 March 1987

Saddam Chairs Armed Forces Command Meeting

JN142116 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 2100 GMT 14 Mar 87

[Text] President Saddam Husayn, commander in chief of the Armed Forces, has chaired an Armed Forces General Command meeting lasting 5 hours and attended by Staff General 'Adnan Khayrallah, deputy commander in chief of the Armed Forces; [name indistinct]; Latif Nusayyif Jasim, minister of culture and information; 'Abd al-Jabbar Shanshal, minister of state for military affairs; the president's secretary; and members of the Armed Forces General Command.

UN Security Council Informed of Basra Shelling

JN140812 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0745 GMT 14 Mar 87

[Text] United Nations, 14 Mar (INA) — An Iraqi message on the Iranian regime's artillery shelling of residential areas in the city of Basra on 22 February has been distributed to UN Security Council members. The message, distributed last Thursday, says the shelling killed and wounded a number of civilians and damaged civilian properties.

'Ismat al-Kittani, Iraq's UN permanent representative, who conveyed the message to UN Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar, said Basra was the target of heavy artillery shelling on 24, 25, 26, 27, and 28 February, as well as on 5 and 6 March. He added the shelling inflicted heavy damage on civilian properties.

AL-QADISIYAH: Forces To Make 21 Mar 'Memorable'

JN140809 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0710 GMT 14 Mar 87

[Text] Baghdad 14 Mar (INA) — An Iraqi military newspaper has affirmed in its editorial today that the Iraqi Armed Forces are fully prepared to defeat and bury any aggressive attempt that the Iranian regime might embark on against Iraqi territory. *Al-Qadisiyah* says: For the past 7 years Iraqi fighters have proven through their heroic deeds that no force can twist Iraqi hands or undermine the Iraqi capability and will to defend Iraq's territory, principles, and glorious history. *Al-Qadisiyah* affirms that Iraq's sons have destroyed all the Iranian rulers' vile intentions, as well as the deception, cunning, and crimes they learnd from Zionists and imperialists. *Al-Qadisiyah* adds: The riffraff concentrations that Iran thought could achieve its expansionist, aggressive schemes by deciding the battle by the end of its Persian year, that is, on 21 March this year, have been smashed and defeated at great Iraq's gates.

Concluding, *Al-Qadisiyah* affirms the Iraqi Armed Forces are determined to make 21 March a memorable day by accomplishing the most sacred and honorable national mission — namely, protecting Iraq's territory from the scoundrel Iranian rulers' covetousness. The paper affirms the aggression will not continue as long as there are people who defend their rights strongly and with determination and who sacrifice for the sake of these rights.

Arab Labor Conference Ends; Resolutions Issued

JN131607 Baghdad Voice of the Masses in Arabic 1300 GMT 13 Mar 87

[Text] The 15th session of the Arab labor conference concluded last night. The conference adopted a number of recommendations and resolutions. The most important of these resolutions is the denunciation of the Iranian regime's expansionist policy, its continuous war against Iraq, and its military cooperation with the Zionist entity and imperialism. The conference recommended the submission of an Arab draft resolution to the 73d session of the international labor conference, which will be held in June, on the serious social and economic consequences of the continuation of the Iraq-Iran war and urging the Iranian side to accept the efforts being made to stop this war and to sign a peace and nonaggression agreement between the two countries to safeguard material and human resources and to achieve peace and security in the region.

The Arab draft resolution calls for organizing a day of solidarity with the Palestinian people and workers during the 73d international labor conference session. In its political resolutions, the conference called for a stop to the continuous attacks on the Palestinian camps, for an end to the support being given to the aggression against these camps, and for security and stability in the camps. It also called for quick action by the Arab League and the international organizations and institutions to end the Ethiopian regime's war against the Eritrean people to enable these people to achieve their self-determination and independence.

Husayn Not To Visit U.S. Until Response Given

JN141043 Doha QNA in Arabic 1010 GMT 14 Mar 87

[Text] Jeddah, 14 Mar (QNA) — Jordanian diplomatic sources have affirmed that Jordanian King Husayn's refusal to visit Washington will continue as long as the U.S. Administration does not respond to certain demands Jordan has presented to Washington on halting arms support to Iran and on backing efforts to convene an interantional conference.

Al-Shar Al-Awsat newspaper published here today quoted these sources as saying that Jordanian Foreign Minister Tahir al-Masri, who has recently visited Washington and New York, has not met with any U.S. official. Al-Masri only met with the UN secretary general and a number of UN officials to brief them on Jordan's stand toward the EC statement that calls for convening an international conference for peace in the Middle East.

Sudanese Trade Delegation Arrives 15 March

JN152054 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1600 GMT 15 Mar 87

[Text] Amman — 'Umar al-Mubarak Abu Zayd, under secretary of the Sudanese Ministry of Trade, arrived in Amman today at the head of a trade and economic delegation on a 5-day visit to Jordan, during which he will hold talks with a number of officials in the private and public sectors to promote bilateral economic and trade cooperation.

In a statement to JNA, Abu Zayd said a trade exchange agreement will be signed during the visit. He added that an equitable bargain agreement was signed during the visit of the Jordanian economic delegation to Sudan last January. He pointed out the bargain agreement is worth $100 million to be divided equally between both countries.

Abu Zayd reviewed economic and trade cooperation between Jordan and Sudan and the exchange of trade between them and expressed hope that economic cooperation would be promoted.

Joint Trade Committee Meets

JN152105 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1900 GMT 15 Mar 87

[Text] Amman — The meetings of the joint Jordanian-Sudanese committee were held at the Industry and Trade Ministry this afternoon to discuss aspects of trade and economic cooperation. The Jordanian side was chaired by Muhammad al-Saqqaf, under secretary of the Industry and Trade Ministry, while the Sudanese side was chaired by 'Umar al-Mubarak Abu Zayd, under secretary of the Sudanese Ministry of Trade, Cooperation, and Supply.

During the meeting, they reviewed the bases on which the equitable bargain agreed upon between the two countries will be established. They also reviewed the Jordanian and Sudanese goods that may be included in the equitable bargain for bilateral trade.

Syrian Industry Minister Arrives on 2-Day Visit

JN141114 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1100 GMT 14 Mar 87

[Text] Al-Ramtha — Syrian Industry Minister 'Ali al-Tarabulsi arrived in Amman through Al-Ramtha at noon today on a 2-day visit to Jordan. Al-Tarabulsi said the purpose of his visit to Jordan is to participate in the meeting of the General Assembly of the Jordanian-Syrian industry company, which will begin in Amman today to discuss matters of interest to the company, ways of improving its performance, and the formulation of solutions to some problems obstructing the production activities of the joint companies stemming from it.

Meets With Al-Rifa'i

JN151547 Amman Domestic Service in English 1200 GMT 15 Mar 87

[Text] Prime Minister Zayd al-Rifa'i received in his office today visiting Syrian Industry Minister 'Ali al-Tarabulsi. They reviewed ways to foster bilateral economic and industrial cooperation. The meeting was attended by Industry, Trade, and Supply Minister Dr Raja'i al-Mu'ashshir

Al-Rifa'i Discusses Elections, Economic Issues

JN151419 Amman Television Service in Arabic 1816 GMT 14 Mar 87

[Interview with Prime Minister Zayd al-Rifa'i by Mahmud al-Sharif, chairman of the board of directors of the Amman daily *Al-Dustur* and Mahmud al-Kayid, chairman of the board of directors of the Amman daily *Al-Ra'y* in the "Weekly Meeting" program moderated by Muhammad Amin, director of Jordan television — videorecorded]

[Excerpts] [Amin] We thank his excellency the prime minister for agreeing to meet with our brothers from the press. We are also pleased to welcome Mahmud al-Sharif, chairman of the board of directors of *Al-Dustur* and Mahmud al-Kayid, chairman of the board of directors of *Al-Ra'y*. We hope this meeting with the prime minister will serve as a good beginning to be followed by meetings with other officials. Thank you. We will now begin the questions with Mahmud al-Kayid.

[Al-Kayid] Mahmud al-Sharif and I would also like to thank his excellency the prime minister for agreeing to the request by the press to hold this meeting. We will ask Your Excellency about issues we believe are important and concern people in this country in a frank, clear, and objective manner. The first question that comes to mind deals with an important subject related to the parliamentary and democratic life in this country. As you know, the House of Representatives is an old council that has existed for more than 20 years. The government has also drafted a new electoral law, which has gone through all the constitutional stages, but is still suspended. Your Excellency, do you not intend to dissolve the House of Representatives and hold parliamentary elections, especially because the new law has taken all political considerations and administrative divisions into account?

[Al-Rifa'i] First, the new electoral law is not suspended. The law provides that it will become effective at the conclusion of the present House's mandate and the holding of new elections. Therefore, the law exists, is valid, and will be enforced when elections are held. As you know, brother, the present House of Representatives mandate expires on 16 January 1988. The Constitution provides that elections must be held within 4 months preceding the expiry of the mandate. In other words, elections must be held before the end of this year if it has not been decided to extend the present House's mandate. This is because the Constitution also provides his majesty the king with the right to extend the House's mandate for 1 or 2 years. If his majesty the king does not exercise these powers the mandate of the House will expire at the beginning of the new year, and elections will have to be held before that. Regarding the age of the House — true, the last general elections were 20 years ago. However, the rejuvenation process has continued through by-elections. This is a continuous process. Some 18 new representatives were elected out of the 30 representatives representing the West Bank, and 11 new representatives were elected out of the 30 representatives representing the East Bank. In other words, 29 new representatives, or almost half of the members of the House, have been elected recently. From the constitutional aspect, this House is 3 years old and it will expire at the beginning of the new year. As I said, there will be elections before the end of this year if the king does not use his powers to extend the mandate of the present House.

[Al-Kayid] What is the government's inclination in this respect; is it extension of mandate or new elections?

[Al-Rifa'i] It is premature to say anything now. The subject has not been discussed. As I said, the constitutional period ends at the beginning of the new year and his majesty the king has constitutional powers to extend. Therefore, it is premature to say anything on the subject. If there is no extension, elections will definitely be held before the end of this year.

[Al-Sharif] Your Excellency, the talk on parliamentary elections leads me to a question on municipal elections, especially with regard to the capital Amman. Amman has expanded, included several other municipalities, and has become greater Amman. The citizen feels that elections must be held for the greater Amman Province. I ask your excellency if there is an intention in this direction?

[Al-Rifa'i] Naturally the intention is there. As you know, the greater Amman Law went into effect on 1 January this year. The law has expanded the greater Amman region to include all the surrounding municipalities and suburbs, including the city of Amman. We expect this unification to continue for 3 years. The municipalities within Amman will be reorganized. As you know, Amman is in an abnormal situation. Some of the streets in Amman are situated in four different municipalities. This has caused confusion and conflict in providing services. Therefore, all the divisions will be revised. I initially envision there will be nine municipalities inside the city of Amman and not one. Once the municipalities have been demarcated, relations and services between the different municipalities will be reorganized. They will return to their old status as municipalities and elections will be held in them. We hope to hold elections in the nine municipalities in the city of Amman also.

[Al-Sharif] Will these divisions be completed within a specific period of time?

[Al-Rifa'i] In principle these divisions should be completed within a 3-year period.

[Amin] Your Excellency, with respect to the elections, you said 18 new West Bank deputies have been appointed in the new parliament. The current procedure is that the deputy is elected by the House of Representatives itself. To make the deputy enjoy a broader popular base, is it not possible to appoint deputies from those who have been elected to various West Bank institutions?

[Al-Rifa'i] Holding elections under the canopy of occupation is out of the question. There is nothing that warrants holding elections under the canopy of occupation. The Constitution has been amended to tackle the issue of filling vacant posts in the West Bank. The Constitution stipulates that elections will be held within the House of Representatives. When elections are held in the East Bank, the deputies representing the East Bank will, according to the constitutional amendment, elect half of the deputies of the West Bank and the new elected group of West Bank deputies will in turn elect the last quarter. [passage omitted]

[Al-Sharif] Your Excellency, higher education and its relationship to society's needs is, of course, a lengthy and complicated subject. However, I would like to ask Your Excellency about the committee formed to deal with unemployment, particularly unemployment among university graduates. People seek education to get a good job and not for the sake of education itself. Education has become a means to get a job and a dignified livelihood. This concept may vary from citizen to citizen, but the result of this concept is bitter. We have thousands of graduates, while job opportunities in the Gulf diminish and university graduates have no jobs. My first question is: What were the results reached by the committee formed to discuss unemployment and the link between education and society's needs in the next decade? What about unemployment and will we link education to society's needs?

[Al-Rifa'i] Unemployment in Jordan is structural unemployment. This means it exists in some specializations and jobs only and does not constitute general unemployment. This is so because we have 40,000 citizens who are unemployed while we have 120,000 foreign workers. The majority of those seeking jobs are graduates of community schools and the rest are university graduates. We have 22,000 young women and 18,000 young men who are unemployed. We are now trying everything in our power and without exception to give all vacant jobs to Jordanians. We do not allow a non-Jordanian to fill a post a Jordanian can handle. Unfortunately, and as I have said, we have structural unemployment. There are jobs that are shunned by Jordanians.

In this case, the presence of an Arab or foreign worker does not mean this worker is here at the expense of the Jordanian worker. This worker is here because there is no Jordanian worker who wants to do this specific job, and for this reason Jordanians seeking employment remain unemployed. Hence, we see a uni-

versity degree is no longer lucrative and cannot serve as a means for income. A university degree is not necessarily the key to a lucrative job. The committee you mentioned has held several meetings and has completed its task. We are now studying its recommendations and will soon implement them. These recommendations consist of short, medium-term, and future measures. These measures consist of refresher courses and employment of a greater number of job seekers through enacting specific financial measures, such as appointing two people instead of one to do a specific job.

There is also the question of training for those who enroll in government service. This will enable us to double the number of those employed by having them first follow a training course for some months before they officially join the civil service. These measures also consist of exerting efforts with Gulf countries to have them limit the return of those working abroad. We thank God that only some Jordanians working abroad returned home. Most of our brothers are still working there. When we contacted fraternal governments, they affirmed to us they have no intention of dismissing Jordanians working in their countries. We also will seek new job markets in other fraternal countries such as the YAR and Sudan. We have contacted these countries for this purpose. However, there is the problem of the salaries these countries will pay. We are now discussing the question of how we can supplement these salaries from our own resources. This means we have to pay something to supplement the salary a Jordanian worker may get in a country like the YAR.

All these are short- and medium-term measures. The most important measure will take time and consists of a reassessment of education policy in Jordan. A committee was formed for this purpose. It met for a year and completed its work. Its report is currently being studied by the Education Council and the Higher Education Council. We will start implementing the recommendations contained in the report when they are approved. The results will take a long time to materialize because they deal with the method of education, the curricula, the fields of specialization, the emphasis put on vocational aspects, and the attempts to limit as much as possible academic studies that exacerbate the problem of unemployment.

[Al-Kayid] A remark connected with Mahmud's question is related to foreign competition in implementing local projects — competition in terms of labor and finance. There have been several complaints about this point. What is your view about this?

[Al-Rifa'i] We are in constant touch with the contractors union. The contractors have been convinced that what they term competition from foreign contractors is neither accurate nor correct. First of all, we always give priority to the Jordanian contractor in implementing projects, and we always give priority to the Jordanian consultant in designing and implementing projects. In some cases, when we get financing from international, Arab, or Islamic funds, these sources insist that tenders be submitted internationally. No Arab, Islamic, or international finance institution will agree to finance projects if tenders are restricted to local contractors. In such cases we insist on participation between the foreign and Jordanian contractors in what is called a joint venture. We also insist that most workers should be Jordanian. Otherwise, priority is always given to the Jordanian contractor.

Sometimes the government is forced to offer a tender to a foreign firm for reasons related to Jordan's exports to that country of that particular firm. For example, Jordan's phosphate exports to India, the largest importer of Jordanian phosphates, is estimated at $150 million annually, and we do not import anything from India in exchange. We import Indian goods worth only $2 or $3 million a year and the Indian Government complains about this unfavorable balance of trade between the two countries. The Indianas also say they have hard currency problems and cannot continue to import $150 million worth of phosphates from us while we import goods worth only $2 or $3 million from them. At the same time, countries like Morocco, the United States, or Canada offer to sell them phosphates at lower prices than ours and in exchange for importing Indian goods for the same amount. But India says that due to the unique relationship between Jordan and India and because we are neighbors and have a good political relationship, it would like to continue its cooperation with Jordan. However, in return for imports India asks that we give it priority in implementing one or two projects.

They then entrust an Indian firm with the task of implementing a certain road project that will cost us $20 or $30 million when we are exporting $150 million worth of phosphates to India and we will continue to export that much. As I have said, these are certain cases related to certain projects, and agreement concerning them is reached with the contractors union, which is in the picture. But there is no rivalry between the local labor force and foreign firms.

[Al-Kayid] This was the case with the Al-Jafr-Al-Azraq Road.

[Al-Rifa'i] Yes, excactly.

[Al-Sharif] May the Prime Minister allow me to turn to some economic affairs that preoccupy the people's thinking? Upon assessing the projects submitted by the government implemented in the first year of the development plan, we notice there has been a reduction in the overall actual spending in comparison with the ambitions of the plan and the promises made to the people. What is the reason for that? Are all the funds for the plan available?

[Al-Rifa'i] In fact, there has been no drop on the part of the government in funds for the first year of the plan. These funds are available as stated in the budget law. There was a drop in expenditures on the part of the private sector that failed to invest funds for reasons connected with the prevailing economic situation in the world and our region. Hence, the government's spending will remain as it is. As to implementing projects, a continuous study is being made with the financiers to obtain loans to carry out projects, in addition to those projects that are directly financed by the Jordanian Treasury. We have taken a number of economic and financial measures to activate the economic activities that were a basic part of the plan itself.

We concentrated on encouraging local production with a series of measures to protect some industries, reduce duties on raw, semimanufactured, and basic materials, increase duties on some nonessential consumer commodities, and give priority to the

government's purchase of local produce and to local contractor firms, which Brother Mahmud has mentioned. We have also expanded the exemptions granted within the law of encouraging investment and encouraged exports in the equitable bargains I mentioned. These include trade exchange agreements, trade centers, and direct and constant backing to expand credit facilities and exports, in addition to reducing the cost of loans and discount rates.

After these measures, we were far better off economically. It is economic trends that determine the availability of funds for plan projects. These measures led to a decline in imports. In 1985, our imports were 1,072 million dinars' worth; they fell by over 200 million dinars to 850 million dinars in 1986. By contrast our exports went up. Our phosphate, potash, cement, and fertilizer exports increased. Consequently, our trade deficit fell from 761 million dinars in 1985 to 591 million in 1986, which means the availability of foreign currency for imports. In 1986, the balance of payments deficit made a 35 million dinar saving.

Thus, when the economy picks up, funding for any project is no longer a problem. It is important that any given project be meticulously studied. We must also satisfy ourselves that it will help the nation's economy. The mere availability of financing is not enough for us to proceed with a given project. It may be that the money requisite for certain projects is there, but we still withhold it if it is not a priority in the development plan. As for spending, as I have said, it has not fallen, it will stay level. We will hopefully increase spending.

[Al-Sharif] You have traveled to Kuwait. Your talks with officials there sought to induce investment in Jordanian projects. What has happened on that score, especially in light of laws enacted by Jordan to attract Arab money? What are the indications that Arab investors are willing to invest in Jordan? Furthermore, according to some estimates, deposits of Jordanians in Jordanian banks amount to 2 billion dinars. How can these funds be used to invigorate the country's economy instead of leaving them to accrue interest in banks? My question is two-pronged: How and why is it that money deposited in banks is not otherwise invested?

[Al-Rifa'i] Regarding Arab investors, we have taken measures to attract them here. They are treated on an equal footing with Jordanian investors. We have removed all obstacles and restrictions and allowed the freedom to invest funds and transfer profits as well as provided safeguards for the money. I discussed this subject in Kuwait and conferred with members of their Chamber of Commerce and Industry. I found a real desire on their part to invest in the Kingdom. But they complained, rightly I believe, that they were in the dark as to the possibilities of investment in the Kingdom and as to the projects ready for implementation in which they could invest.

They wanted information about investment and potential projects up for investment. It was agreed that we send a delegation to attend what they called an investment demonstration. Having been formed, the delegation is now preparing for the trip expected to be made this month. The delegation will carry with it plans for projects ready for implementation and areas and scope of investment in the Kingdom. Should the experiment prove successful, we will send similar missions to other sisterly states. In other words, we will seek to market the areas of investment available here rather than wait for others to come to us in search of investment.

As for bank deposits, this is a healthy phenomenon. Liquidity and bank deposits are on the increase — approximately 2 billion dinars, partly reinvested in development bonds issued by the Central Bank and sold mostly to banks. The proceeds from these are invested by the government in investment projects. As for other forms of investment, we try to encourage the public by creating the proper climate for investment and giving incentives as well as removing all obstacles.

We would like the private sector to be more energetic by investing in profitable projects rather than limiting itself to depositing in banks. God willing, we hope to succeed in convincing every member of the public to save and invest. Saving and investing are two faces of one coin. The appropriate atmosphere we have created and the additional measures being taken on a continual basis should help in this process.

[Al-Kayid] Some people are apprehensive about the increasing foreign debt. Can the prime minister assure us about that?

[Al-Rifa'i] With pleasure. Debts in general can be measured by the ability of each country to repay loans, the interest on these loans, and the service on these loans. The red line is reached if the government has to pay 20 percent or more of export income as interest and service annually on the total loans. In Jordan, thank God, it is 14 percent, and if we want to be accurate it is 14.9 percent. We have not reached and we will not reach, God willing, the serious point.

We have committed ourselves to paying our debts in installments, hoping to continue to get Arab financial aid as decided at the Baghdad summit. However, we did not receive all commitments, and the government found itself forced to pay for loans it received in the early 1980's. Now we are trying to keep the ceiling of our loans as low as possible. The amounts of loans are gradually dropping, but as not fast as we would like.

At present the government owes 902 million Jordanian dinars, some of which are easy loans, some are commercial loans, and the rest are guaranteed by the government. We are continuously trying to reduce this amount, which is a heavy burden to Jordan regarding hard currency.

We have two priorities we must not forget. The first is that the Treasury should be in sound shape so it can shoulder its duty, as a treasury, as a government, and as a state, toward citizens and the rest of the world, so it can preserve its credibility. Jordan, thank God, enjoys great and bright credibility. Jordan faces no difficulty in continuously fulfilling its commitments. Moreover, it faces no difficulty in obtaining funds. However, as I said, financing unnecessary projects should not take place and our loans must not exceed our annual repayments.

The second priority is to preserve an acceptable amount of foreign currency as a reserve for the Kingdom. This gives stabil-

ity to the dinar and enables the government to meet its external commitments and external investment.

All the government's economic and financial measures should be viewed in this perspective. All measures serving the country's interests are taken regardless of the satisfactory or unsatisfactory reaction of a certain group of people. Our financial and economic measures are taken within this framework.

[Amin] So we can say that the situation of our foreign debts is good and that we have not reached the red line?

[Al-Sharif] Your talk about two priorities makes me ask this question: What is the Kingdom's present foreign currency reserve, and to what extent does this affect the value of the dinar? Some people say the dinar is stronger than its real value and that the reserve is dropping. What is your opinion on this issue?

[Al-Rifa'i] I have also heard rumors that the dinar is stronger than it is really worth. I do not know the motives or the sources of these rumors because they do not reflect reality. Jordan had 781 million Jordanian dinars worth of gold and foreign currency in 1985, but this increased to 822 million dinars in 1986. Therefore, there was an increase and not a drop in reserves. We have also achieved a savings in the balance of payments estimated at 35 million Jordanian dinars in 1986.

As you said, deposits in Jordanian banks have also increased to 2 billion dinars. This is in addition to the measures taken to attract more deposits and investments by Jordanian expatriates. Even Jordanian expatriates' remittances increased in 1986. This is despite the rumors that these remittances have dropped. These signs and figures strengthen the dinar's value. We are concerned about maintaining the stability of the rate of exchange of the Jordanian dinar.

Thank God, the dinar is stable, strong, and continuously increasing in a certain percentage compared with most currencies in the region and compared with the dollar. However, if it sometimes drops compared with the mark or the yen, it increases at other times compared with other currencies such as the sterling pound or any other Arab dinar. This happens. The most important thing is that it is strong and stable and will continue to be so, God willing. There is no problem at all.

[Al-Sharif] In your explanation of the foreign debts you said you did not receive Arab aid from fraternal states on time. It is no secret some of this aid has completely stopped. I believe the legal and official commitment to the Baghdad summit resolutions will expire next year or the year after, and, consequently, some states feel they are absolved of abiding by the written resolutions. What is your view of the future of the flow of Arab aid to Jordan?

[Al-Rifa'i] Regarding Arab aid, regrettably most of the fraternal states did not meet their commitments. The only state that regularly and continuously pays its commitments is the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia.

As for the other Arab states, maybe their circumstances do not enable them to pay. However, we are in continuous contact with them, we thank them, and we express our appreciation for any aid they extend to Jordan. However, the aid they extend does not meet their commitments to the Baghdad and Amman summit resolutions, with the exception of Saudi Arabia.

It is true the Baghdad summit resolutions expire in 1988. However, we hope there will be another Arab summit before that date to discuss this issue. The issue is not only related to Jordan, but also to Syria and to Arab states that are capable of supporting the states of steadfastness. I am personally certain Saudi Arabia and the fraternal countries will continue their aid to Jordan. They have never failed to aid Jordan and will not fail in the future.

In fact, the Kingdom's great capital is His Majesty King Husayn. This is due to his fraternal relations with his brothers the Arab leaders, his Arab and international position, and his pan-Arab stands and reputation. All this is a source of love and respect and is translated into continuous aid to Jordan. This is one of the great pillars on which we always rely. [passage omitted]

AL-KHALIJ: Kan'an Confirms Hostages Not Killed

JN151250 Al-Shariqah AL-KHALIJ in Arabic 13 Mar 87 pp 1, 17

[By Thurayya 'Asi]

[Text] Beirut — *Al-Khalij* — Brigadier General Ghazi Kan'an, chief of the Syrian military intelligence in Lebanon, has announced that Beirut airport and the road leading to it have become secure. "Even Samir Ja'ja' can fly from it if he likes," Brig Gen Kan'an said. He pointed out that although Syrian supports the reopening of all crossing points, establishments, and ports, especially the airport, "the reopening of the airport is not our responsibility." In an exclusive statement to *Al-Khalij*, Kan'an confirmed a Syrian military source's announcement to *Al-Khalij* a few days ago on the incorrectness of the reports that said three hostages were killed when the Syrian forces entered Hizballah's Fathallah Barracks in Al- Bastah.

Regarding the camps, Kan'an said there is no problem any more with the Shatila camp because it is located "within the areas of our presence." As for the Burj al-Barajinah camp, this is linked to the continuation of the occupation of some Lebanese villages by ""Arafat's supporters."

He said the issue of this camp is being discussed with the concerned leaderships. He called on the regular Lebanese Army units to take charge of security around the camps. Kan'an revealed there is an inclination to deploy Lebanese Army units on the contact lines of the eastern part of the capital and withdraw militias from it.

Evaluating the progress of the security plan in West Beirut, Brig Gen Kan'an expressed great satisfaction with achievements on the level of controlling the situation and the prevailing security in the city, and the clear reflection of this on people.

On the possibility of the Lebanese Army's taking charge of contact lines in East Beirut, Kan'an said: "We have felt that the Lebanese side has an inclination toward deploying the regular army on the contact lines, withdrawing militias from it, and opening crossing points. They raised this issue informally and discussion stopped at this point. There is nothing new on this level."

On the reopening of the airport and crossing points, Kan'an said: "This is not our responsibility. We support the reopening of all crossing points and all Lebanese establishments and ports, especially the airport. We support the removal of all obstacles. I repeat: The airport has become safe from the security aspect. There is no longer any problem either at the airport or on the airport road. Any security fears with regard to flying from it are no longer justified. If anybody fears our presence, we say that nobody is wanted by us at all. I say that even Samir Ja'ja' can fly from Beirut airport if he wishes. We want to restore normal activity to the airport."

On the possibility that the security plan which began in West Beirut would be a prelude to a comprehensive security plan for greater Beirut, Kan'an said: "What has been implemented was to stop the dangerous bloodshed that occurred in West Beirut. We hope the Lebanese Army would deploy in all Lebanese areas so that all obstacles will be removed."

Kan'an maintained there is no relationship between the stationing of Syrian forces in areas close to the Beirut-Damascus Road (the Duhur al'ibadiyah and Ba'lshmayh areas), and an arrangement to reopen that road. He said: "We hope this will be achieved in the future, but there is no relationship between the deployment of the Syrian Army there and the subject of reopening the road."

Answering a question on the need to extend the security plan to the suburb and the camps, Kan'an said: "The Shatila camp is within the areas of our presence. The Lebanese Army's 6th Brigade is deploying around it. There is no problem with it. As for the Burj al-Barajinah camp, it is being discussed with the concerned leaderships in the PNSF and Amal due to its closeness to the southern suburb. The subject of the camps is linked to the continuation of the 'Arafatists' occupation of some Lebanese villages. Efforts continue to remove the 'Arafatist presence in coordination with the PNSF because there is no interest there in occupying the Lebanese villages. They must go back to the camps and let the regular Lebanese Army, within a plan, take charge of the axes around the camps and control militia practices. This helps prevent any military action around the camps. The Palestinian people are our people. We have to safeguard them as we safeguard our people themselves. However, the current situation is a result of the continuous 'Arafatist state of affairs in the camps. This state of affairs explodes the situation in the camps and around them."

Kan'an belives there is no relationship between the plan of the Syrian entry into West Beirut and the implementation of the security plan in it on the one hand and the current Damascus negotiations between two Lebanese and Syrian working teams on the other. He said: "These talks have no relationship with the security plan; there had been a fire and we came to extinguish it."

Kan'an stressed there are no militias or armed offices in West Beirut. He said all those who tampered with Beirut security have been moved out. "All those who harmed security have been punished," Kan'an declared. He pointed out that the subject of those who were held in captivity during the recent incidents has been settled.

Kan'an denied the reports about the death of three foreign hostages in the Al-Bastah incident. He said: "This report is groundless. When we entered the Fathallah Barracks in Al-Bastah it was empty. We had given all organizations 24 hours to evacuate their offices and withdraw their militias because our forces would deploy. When we entered the offices, we found all of them empty, whether they belonged to the Amal Movement, the PSP, or the Ba'thists. When our forces entered the Fatahallah Barrack, it was burned and destroyed."

Kan'an declined to talk more about the hostages issue. In response to the escalating statements by Hizballah that followed the Al-Bastah incident, Kan'an said: "I am not concerned about these statements. We are dealing with the [Lebanese] arena from a pan-Arab basis. We hope we will face no obstacles. I do not know who is behind such odd statements. However, I am

satified in general."

On developments in the Damacus negotiations, Kan'an announced: "We are not party to these negotiations. The parties are Lebanese. We convey the viewpoints of every party to the others to help reach a balanced national Lebanese solution that satisfies all parties."

On some people's speculation that a solution has become unlikely, Kan'an said: "Solving the Lebanese problem needs patience. It is better to be optimistic. We hope there will be an agreement that satifies all parties and that all Lebanese parties will be serious in this regard."

On his expectations about what could happen in East Beirut, especially that there is talk about the Lebanese Army's taking charge of it and about the need to dissolve militias in it, Kan'an said: "I do not have any idea, but I hope a solution will be brought about and no bloodshed will occur. From a pan-Arab premise, we hope security will prevail and that the Lebaense Army will take charge of all areas."

Group To Give 'Death Sentence' on French Hostage

AU141853 Paris AFP in English 1848 GMT 14 Mar 87

[Text] Beirut, March 14 (AFP) — A Lebanese extremist group, which had threatened to kill a French hostage by midday Saturday, said he was now "on trial" and that the "death sentence" would be pronounced within 48 hours, in a statement sent to a newspaper here late Saturday.

The Organization of Revolutionary Justice (ORJ) issued its latest threat against French television cameraman Jean Louis Normandin in a handwritten statement in Arabic sent to the newspaper *Al-Nahar*.

The statement was acompanied by an instant color photograph of Mr. Normandin, who was kidnapped on March 8 of last year in Moslem-dominated West Beirut.

The ORJ had earlier given the French Government a 48-hour deadline to clarify a recent statement made by President Francois Mitterrand rejecting any deal with terrorrists and asserting that France would continue supplying arms to Iraq.

"Because of the non-clarification of Mr. Mitterrand's statement and of the declaration of war, Normandin has been tried and the revolutionary and just sentence to execute him will be pronounced at the end of his trial, in the next 48 hours," the statement said.

Further on Ultimatum; French Appeal

NC142115 Paris AFP in English 2110 GMT 14 Mar 87

[Excerpt] Beirut, March 14 (AFP) — A Lebanese group holding a French tv technician hostage warned on Saturday that he was now "on trial" and that a "just and revolutionary sentence to execute him" would be made within the next 48 hours.

The threat came only hours after the elapse of an earlier deadline set by the abductors, who demanded that the Paris government "clarify" its position on dealing with terrorists and on France's military ties with Iraq.

In Paris, the French Foreign Ministry issued an appeal for the kidnappers, a group calling itself the Organisation of Revolutionary Justice (ORJ) to spare the technician, Jean-Louis Normandin.

But the communique also stressed that France wants to have "the best possible relations" with all countries in the Middle East, and "in particular intends to pursue the process of normalisation" with Iran that began 11 months ago.

France "expects positive results in various ways" from the normalisation process, the communique, issued by the Foreign Ministry, said.

Immediately after it was elected — a year ago this weekend — the conservative coalition of Jacques Chirac moved to repair relations with Iran that had been soured by French loans and sale of military equipment to Iraq.

Iran has linked Iranian help in freeing French hostages in Lebanon to solving three outstanding issues: an end to the agitation, on French soil, of Iranian dissidents; the repayment of a billion-dollar loan, plus interest, that the former shah paid to a French nuclear consortium; and the severing of French military links with Iraq.

Both sides agree that progress has been made on the first two issues, but Mr. Chirac insists that France, while seeking better relations with Iran, will not prejudice its ties with Iraq.

Baghdad owes France several billion dollars in civilian and military debts.

The ORJ, in its handwritten warning Saturday delivered to a Beirut newspaper together with a polaroid snapshot of Mr. Normandin, said it had urged Paris to have "objective discussions."

However, the statement said, the French Government "lowered itself by proposing to exchange hostages for money, for arms, or for economic, industrial or other projects, and sometimes asked us to free a hostage from time to time" to save political face at home.

"We refused to swap our hostages, and insisted on reaching a political solution."

It warned that Mr. Normandin was now "on trial" and that "the just and revolutionary sentence to execute him" would be made at the end of the proceedings, within 48 hours.

The ORJ on Thursday gave the French Government 48 hours to "clarify" an earlier statement by President Francois Mitterrand of France, who said he rejected making deals with terrorists and asserted that France would continue supplying arms to Iraq. [passage omitted]

Fadlallah Appeals for Hostage

NC151554 Beirut Voice of National Resistance in Arabic 1543 GMT 15 Mar 87

[Text] Scholar Muhammad Husayn Fadlallah [Hizballah spiritual guide] appealed today to the Organization of Revolutionary Justice to spare the life of [French hostage] Jean-Louis Normandin. He urged the group not to carry out its threats to execute the Frenchman.

Further on Fadlallah Appeal

NC151915 Paris AFP in English 1859 GMT 15 Mar 87

[Excerpt] Beirut, March 15 (AFP) — Shaykh Muhammad Husayn Fadlallah, spiritual head of the pro-Iranian Hizballah militia, on Sunday urged a Moslem fundamentalist group holding a French TV technician not to carry out its threat to kill its hostage.

Shaykh Fadlallah told the Organisation of Revolutionary Justice (ORJ) it is "forbidden to kidnap or kill an innocent person because one has a score to settle with a head of state."

The ORJ warned Saturday it would hand down a death sentence against Jean-Louis Normandin, 35, by Monday night after a "trial," as the French Government had failed to shift its position regarding dealings with terrorists and France's military ties with Iraq.

In a speech in the mainly-Shi'ite southern suburbs of Beirut, Shaykh Fadlallah said he "perfectly understands the kidnappers' motives," but "if the kidnap victim is innocent one should not add another crime to the crimes that provoked the kidnapping."

If Mr Normandin, 35, a cameraman for the French television channel Antenne-2, were a spy, he contended, the ORJ should have killed him shortly after they kidnapped him.

Mr Normandin's colleagues on the four-man Antenne-2 crew kidnapped on March 8 1986, have been released. [passage omitted]

Distinguishes Innocent Hostage, Spy

NC152000 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain in Arabic to Lebanon 1730 GMT 15 Mar 87

[Text] In a speech delivered in the southern suburb [of Beirut] today, Shaykh Muhammad Husayn Fadlallah asserted that it is prohibited for [word indistinct] kidnapping or killing an innocent person because of a conflict with the head of state to which that person [word indistinct]. According to Fadlallah, it is also unacceptable to allow innocent people to pay the price for differences between two states.

Shaykh Fadlallah added: However, the hostage may be a spy. If this is the case, then the matter becomes a question of espionage and the kidnappers should have brought him to trial the day he was kidnapped. Shaykh Fadlallah affirmed that he fully understands the motives of the kidnappers. However, if the kidnapped person is innocent [words indistinct] to add a new crime to those which led to his kidnapping, for such action does not serve our cause.

Lebanese Forces Foil Attempt To Kill Ja'ja'

NC141001 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 0945 GMT 14 Mar 87

[Text] The Lebanese Forces security apparatus has revealed there has been an attempt to assassinate Lebanese Forces Commander Dr Samir Ja'ja'. A booby-trapped car was readied for the attempt. Fu'ad al-Rahbani, who was instructed to carry out the operation, will hold a news conference at 1300 today at which he will give details of the attempt.

Syrians, Hubayqah Accused

NC141311 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1145 GMT 14 Mar 87

[Excerpts] Lebanon escaped a national catastrophe when Lebanese Forces Commander Dr Samir Ja'ja' escaped a vile attempt to assassinate him by means of a booby-trapped car. The identity and objective of those who tried to carry out the operation are clear. The operation was designed to harm the shield and spearhead of the Lebanese Forces which are protecting Lebanon at a time when its institutions and symbols are collapsing.

The person going by the name of Fu'ad al-Rahbani, who was instructed to carry out the deed, held a news conference at 1300 today. Al-Rahbani gave details of the assassination attempt and revealed the identity of those behind it. Although they have tried to hide behind a thousand masks, these parties are fully exposed before the public. They have also sought to implement their evil plans through other criminal acts against the Christian community and its noble leaders. Fu'ad al-Rahbani named these parties as the Syrians, Elie Hubayqah, and Sulayman Franjiyah the grandson [of former president Franjiyah]. [passage omitted]

Al-Rahbani admitted that Rene Ka'du, Elie Hubayqah's brother-in-law, had masterminded the attempt, under Syrian supervision and with the assistance of the younger Sulayman Franjiyah. Al-Rahbani said he asked for $250,000 in return for carrying out the operation. He added that his conscience had prevented him from going ahead with the plan, and he told personnel manning the Al-Barbarah roadblock about it.

Mu'awwad Denies Complicity

NC151221 Beirut Voice of National Resistance in Arabic 1115 GMT 14 Mar 87

[Text] Rene Ka'du Mu'awwad, who is currently in Greece, contacted the information media yesterday to respond to Fu'ad al-Rahbani's allegations that he was involved in a plot to use a booby-trapped car to assassinate Samir Ja'ja'. Mu'awwad denied all of Al-Rahbani's allegations, saying: I have been in Greece for more than 10 days now, and I will return to Lebanon in the next few days to prove the falsehood of Al-Rahbani's allegations.

Fadlallah Supports Syrian Military Deployment

NC141635 Beirut Voice of National Resistance in Arabic 1530 GMT 14 Mar 87

[Text] In a statement to the Italian *Il Giornale* newspaper, scholar Muhammad Husayn Fadlallah expressed his support for the Syrian forces' entry into West Beirut. He stated: Our Syrian friends entered the city to maintain security, to put an end to the fighting among the militias, and to restore order.

Commenting on the southern suburb, Fadlallah said: The suburb does not have the problems experienced by West Beirut. We carry arms for two reasons: first, for self-defense — we do not direct our weapons against anyone — and second, for the struggle against Israel.

With regard to the foreign hostages being held in Lebanon, Fadlallah affirmed: No one knows where they are. I do not believe that foreigners face problems in Beirut. What happened to some journalists was not the result of friction between gunmen and officials. He added: The responsibility rests with the intelligence services of those states that have resorted to kidnapping. The agents of 32 intelligence services have turned Beirut into their operational field.

PSP Source on Junblatt Statement to UK Newspaper

NC140728 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain in Arabic to Lebanon 0530 GMT 14 Mar 87

[Text] A responsible source in the PSP has issued the following statement: Some suspect and prejudice information media have been distorting the party leader's statements to foreign papers and magazines. They have been spreading rumors in a blatant and cheap attempt to cause strife between the party and its allies and friends and to create disorder and troubles. The latest example of this took place yesterday. The PSP leader's statements to the British newspaper *The Times* were distorted and altered to include remarks that he never made, such as: Junblatt is glad his father died 10 years ago because he was spared so many humiliations, including going to Damascus every few weeks:

The PSP's relations with Syria are bigger than these cheap and mean attempts, which will not have any effect. The PSP is explicit in its options and stands. Its ties with Damascus are principled, firm, and strategic, and the party is endeavoring to consolidate them even further. What Kamal Junblatt was actually spared because of his martyrdom was the humiliation of witnessing the Israeli invasion [of Lebanon], and the presence of U.S. forces and fleets on our territory and in our waters. This was what was specifically referred to in the PSP leader's statement to *The Times*.

Sa'adah Stresses Solution Must be Internal

NC151741 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1645 GMT 15 Mar 87

[Text] Responding to the Syrian president's remark that a Lebanese accord cannot come from outside Lebanon and Syria, Phalangist Party leader Dr George Sa'adah asserted that any accord that is reached must come from within Lebanon itself. After the Lebanese have reached an agreement, Sa'adah stated, then we will welcome any help from abroad that supports it.

Dr Sa'adah denied there were any differences within the Phalangist Party, emphasizing that all such reports in this regard are groundless. He noted that the meetings currently being held by the Phalangist Party seek to transform it from a structure established by one founder to a collective institution. He called on those who wager on the eruption of security incidents in East Beirut to bet on something else. He affirmed that only God knows what the fate of the Syrian plan will be in Lebanon. In this regard he said: Experience has taught us that the goals of such plans do not fit the people's expectations or aspirations.

Karami Chairs Northern Coordination Meeting

NC151431 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1130 GMT 15 Mar 87

[Excerpts] Prime Minister Rashid Karami expressed hope yesterday that foreign diplomatic missions will return to West Beirut to resume their diplomatic work now that security has been consolidated there.

Prime Minister Karami expressed this hope when chairing a regular meeting of the Northern Coordination Committee in Tripoli. The committee members reviewed the political situation and discussed living conditions in Tripoli and the northern area. Prime Minister Karami briefed the committee members on the progress of the security efforts in West Beirut. He emphasized that our relatives and brothers in West Beirut now feel safe and tranquil. Here is a report from Tripoli:

[Begin unidentified correspondent recording] [passage omitted] Karami emphasized that constitutions and laws are meant to serve the people. He said: When the people's interests require that an initiative be taken, this initiative becomes legitimate. No one can challenge us regarding Lebanon's sovereignty and legitimate authority. However, we must save the sons of our people and our citizens from their sufferings and ensure their security and tranquility. Regarding the southern suburb, there have been no incidents there, and we hope there will be none. It remains a part of Beirut, just as the eastern area remains a part of Beirut. They are parts of Lebanon, whose unity we seek. We hope the actions taken thus far will be a first step on the road to security and accord throughout Lebanon. We hope the Lebanese Army will deploy in East Beirut and that the state will impose its legitimate authority there. We also hope the legitimate authority will be restored over ports and public utilities, and that ports and the airport will be reopened so the Treasury can reassert its usurped rights and fulfill its responsibilities in alleviating the burdens borne by the citizens. If not, all initiatives to establish solidarity institutions and organizations will be incomplete and futile.

Karami also briefed the Coordination Committee on the results of discussions in Damascus, saying: We were briefed in Damascus on points of the working paper submitted by President Amin al-Jumayyil. We presented our remarks, which some con-

sider a separate plan. What is important, though, is finding a formula acceptable to all which will lead the country to needed reform and salvation. [passage omitted]

Prime Minister Karami referred to a statement made by His Beautitude Patriarch Sfayr to *Al-Safir*, emphasizing: We have no objection to a transitional period for eliminating political sectarianism. We were among the first to advocate sharing rule. We have submitted more than one initiative in this respect, both regarding the elimination of sectarianism completely and elimination of sectarianism in the three main posts, or their rotation. We have also emphasized the need to share rule through the Council of Ministers.

Karami noted a statement by the Phalangist Party's leader in which he said they want to transform the Phalangist Party from one that helped to found the state into the party of the establishment [regime]. Karami said: Let them then permit us to transform the state system from the rule of individual and family to the rule of the group and people, and let us transform it from an estate into a system of rule based on justice, equality, equal opportunity, and democracy. [end recording]

West Beirut Explosion Leaves 1 Person Wounded

NC142201 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 2115 GMT 14 Mar 87

[Text] An explosive device went off on the first floor of the Justinian Building near the Department of Law in the Al-Hamra' area [of West Beirut] at 2215. The explosion wounded one person and caused severe material damage.

2 Explosions Reported in Tripoli 15 March

NC150638 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 0545 GMT 15 Mar 87

[Text] According to unconfirmed reports received this morning, two explosions were heard at 0515 today in Al-Haykaliyah, Tripoli. The reports add that burned out Syrian military vehicles and a large number of roadblocks were later seen in the area.

2 Killed, 7 Wounded in Beirut Camps Fighting

NC131310 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1215 GMT 13 Mar 87

[Text] Intermittent fighting in the Shatila and Burj al-Barajinah camps is continuing and grew considerably violent at noon today along many of the combat lines. According to security and medical sources, two people have been killed and seven others wounded in the past 12 hours of fighting there.

In the meantime, the supply siege on Al-Rashidiyah camp has been maintained for 6 consecutive days, while the Shatila and Burj al-Barajinah camps have been under siege for 2 days now. Our security correspondent has told us that UNRWA's contacts in this respect have been to no avail.

Cease-Fire Agreement for Beirut Camps Reported

NC151321 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1300 GMT 15 Mar 87

[Text] Guarded calm continues to prevail along the combat lines of the Burj al-Barajinah and Shatila camps, except for sporadic sniper fire.

It has been learned that a comprehensive cease-fire agreement was reached last night in and around the camps area, following an expanded meeting of representatives of the parties concerned and Syrian Chief of Military Intelligence Brigadier General Ghazi Kan'an. The new agreement is part of successive measures that have been implemented to consolidate the security situation in West Beirut.

Junblatt Addresses 'Liberation Army' Cadets

NC142026 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain in Arabic to Lebanon 1730 GMT 14 Mar 87

[Speech delivered by PSP leader Walid Jublatt at a graduation ceremony for Popular Liberation Army cadets in Al-Dubbiyah on 14 March — recorded]

[Excerpts] This is the training course of 16 March [the date of Kamal Junblatt's death]. It is a training course for loyalty, continuity, and defiance. It is a course reflecting loyalty to the leader and the founder of the PSP and the Popular Liberation Army, to the progressive Arab nationalist leader [Kamal Junblatt]. [passage omitted]

Isolationists, pro-Israelis, and pro-Americans can be found in the north. Direct and indirect Israeli hegemony exists in the south. But there is a security plan in Beirut which we hope will prove to be a progressive Arab political one. We want this plan to allow Arab nationalists and the avant-garde to exercise their political rights and their right of self-defense. We hope the presence of the Syrian Army will act as a bulwark against the pro-Israelis in the north and the Israelis in the south. We hope the deployment of the Syrian Arab Army will reassure all Arab nationalists in Lebanon. [passage omitted]

My comrades in the Popular Liberation Army: In the 10 years since Kamal Junblatt's death, certain people have been hoping that the PSP would fall apart and that the Arab nationalist movement would collapse. Kamal Junblatt lives on in us and will triumph. [applause]

The road is long, but we have won against greater odds in the past and we will win again. Train hard, benefit from foreign sources of knowledge, and profit from the experiences of nations which have fought and sacrificed, particularly the great Soviet Union. [applause] The Soviets fought the fascists and won. They sacrificed millions of lives to defeat fascism. They were pioneers and we also are pioneers. Benefit from this great and strategic ally, an ally who has never refrained from offering any assistance to the PSP or the honorable nationalist forces. Benefit from Soviet help and return to us. Kamal Junblatt needs you and the PSP needs you. Thank you. [applause]

UNIFIL Conveys Israeli Warning on Gunmen

NC141752 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1645 GMT 14 Mar 87

[Text] According to a Central News Agency report, Brigadier General Gustav Haegglund, UNIFIL's commander in the south, today conveyed an Israeli warning to the Lebanese Government with regard to the return of gunmen from the various militias to southern Lebanon. The United Nations and the UNIFIL command had earlier been notified of this warning.

The Central News Agency cited informed and reliable sources as saying the Syrian forces return to West Beirut and the departure of hundreds of gunmen from the area, a large number of whom have moved to the south, prompted Israel to convey a tacit warning to the United Nations. Should these gunmen embark on any military action against the Israeli Army or participate in activites in the security strip, Israel warned it would carry out operations similar to the scorched earth policy it has pursued in the past. These sources note that Haegglund has raised this matter with Minister Nabi Birri.

Birri Urges 'All Fighters' To Confront Israel

NC141948 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1630 GMT 14 Mar 87

[Text] Amal Movement leader Nabih Birri held a news conference today to mark the anniversary of the Al-Zrariyah massacre. He called on all fighters to go to the south to confront Israel, which has made a conspicuous return there.

Birri noted that attempts are being made to revoke previously submitted proposals, the very proposals that have provided the framework for the reconciliation talks now taking place. He declared he is not pessimistic, however, and stressed that a real national agreement could be reached on the basis of Lebanon's liberation and the establishment of justice.

He reiterated that the 1943 formula is synonymous with a Maronite republic. If we are against the establishment of an Islamic republic in Lebanon after 40 years, how can we accept any other republic?

Birri called on all parties to benefit from the opportunity presented by Syria's assistance. He also called for steps to be taken to secure detente along with security, such as opening the airport, ports, and crossing points.

He proposed that the cabinet convene in Damascus as a dialogue committee in the presence of the president of the Republic and the speaker of the Chamber of Deputies. This will help to speed up the dialogue process and achieve a final and studied result that will be supported by Arabs without reservation.

Birri disclosed that serious efforts are being made to open the airport. He said he had authorized the director general responsible for investment to undertake contacts to reopen the port. Exchanges with the Syrian brothers and others are also underway to open the Al-Tayyunah crossing point [between West and East Beirut].

Israeli Positions Reportedly Hit 13 March

NC131223 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1130 GMT 13 Mar 87

[Text] The Lebanese National Resistance carried out a daring operation today. At 0915, the forces of the Jabal 'Amil Martyrs of the faithful resistance used heavy rockets to attack positions held by enemy personnel and agent Lahd militias in the villages of 'Ayn Ibil, Dibil, and Rumaysh scoring hits right on target. Columns of fire were seen rising from the enemy areas of concentration, which sustained grave losses in life and equipment. Meanwhile, the resistance fighters warned that they will continue to bombard the Zionist positions if the enemy continues its bestial attacks on the peaceful people and villages in southern Lebanon. The fighters added that none of the enemy positions will be spared.

Resistance Attacks Israelis; Casualties Reported

NC161228 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1130 GMT 16 Mar 87

[Text] The Al-Bajj Samir Mattut Group of the Lebanese national resistance advanced toward the northern approach to 'Aynata town early today and planted an 80-kg explosive charge in the area. A number of 120-mm mortar rounds were attached to the device, which was detonated while an Israeli intelligence car was passing this morning. The sound of exploding shells was heard in nearby areas, and columns of smoke were seen rising from the scene of the explosion. According to reports from the south, the car's passengers were either killed or wounded. Immediately afterward, Israeli troops besieged the town, preventing inhabitants from leaving or entering. Meanwhile, Israeli forces and agent Lahd's militias raided houses. Tension prevails in the town. In a similar development, the Al-Hajj Zuhayr Shihadah Group advanced toward a position held jointly by Israeli intelligence personnel and agent Lahd militias in 'Aynata in Bint Jubayl District. The group used 107-mm rockets to attack the position, which received direct hits. Flames could be seen in the area. Five enemy personnel were either killed or wounded.

French Group Meets President, Concludes Visit

NC141029 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0815 GMT 14 Mar 87

[Text] The French delegation concluded its visit to Lebanon yesterday with a meeting with President Shaykh Amin al-Jumayyil. In a news conference following the meeting, the French delegation said: The Lebanese Christians are the vanguard of democracy and freedom in this part of the world. If this front collapses, the result will be a tragedy for the country and for democracy. Responding to questions, the delegation members declared that the International Commission on Human Rights should expose the acts perpetrated by the foreign armies in Lebanon. They stressed the right of all peoples to self-determination. The delegation members also expressed their support for the opening of Halat Airport, provided tht it is called Byblos, from which [words indistinct] is derived.

Libyan Official Arrives for Visit 14 March

Received by Al-Shar'

JN141339 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic
1315 GMT 14 Mar 87

[Text] Jadallah 'Azzuz al-Talhi, Libyan secretary of the General People's Committee for Foreign Liaison, arrived in Damascus today. He was received upon arrival by Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar'. In a statement to a SANA correspondent, Al-Talhi said he will convey a message from Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi, leader of the 1 September revolution, to his brother President Hafiz al-Asad.

Meets With Al-Asad

JN141848 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic
1815 GMT 14 Mar 87

[Text] Damascus — President Hafiz al-Asad received Jadallah 'Azzuz al-Talhi, Libyan secretary of the General People's committee for Foreign Liaison, today at 2000. The meeting was attended by Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar'. Al-Talhi conveyed a message from Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi, leader of the Libyan 1 September revolution, to the president. Talks revolved around the situation in the region and issues of common interest.

Leaves Damascus 15 Mar

JN151439 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic
1115 GMT 15 Mar 87

[Text] Jadallah 'Azzuz al-Talhi, Libyan secretarty of the General People's Committee for Foreign Liaison, left Damascus this morning. He was seen off at Damascus International Airport by Faruq al-Shar', foreign affairs minister; 'Abd al-Qadir al-Urfali, charge d'affaires at the Libyan Liaison Bureau [Embassy] in Damascus; and Bureau staff. During his visit, Al-Talhi conveyed a message from Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi, leader of the Libyan 1 September revolution, to His Excellency President Hafiz al-Asad on a number of issues of common interest.

Visiting SDAR President Gives News Conference

JN131641 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic
1515 GMT 13 Mar 87

[Text] SDAR President Mohamed 'Abdelaziz has commended the honest, courageous, and principled stand of Syria, led by President al-Asad, against imperialist and Zionist schemes. Speaking at a news conference in Damascus this morning, 'Abdelaziz expressed appreciation for and pride in President al-Asad's constant support for liberation movements in the world and in the Arab homeland in particular. He described President al-Asad as a knowledgeable man who has taken honorable stands that have found expression in Arab and international fora. Despite their preoccupation with confronting the Zionist enemy and imperialist plots against the Arab nation, relations between Syria and the SDAR were brotherly, he added.

'Abdelaziz also reviewed the SDAR's history in all its political, economic, geographical, and social aspects, as well as developments in the Arab Maghreb and his country's relations with neighboring states in all spheres. On existing relations between the SDAR and Arab and other countries, the president referred to UN and OAU resolutions on the dispute between the SDAR and the regime of King Hassan. He emphasized the Moroccan monarch's regime has spurned all international peace initiatives on the dispute. 'Abdelaziz said things have gone from bad to worse following the visit to Morocco by enemy Prime Minister Shim'on Peres, who sought primarily to sow dissension among Arab brethren and to destabilize the Arab region in the interest of imperialist and Zionist goals.

In response to the possibility of an Israeli force in Morocco that supports the Moroccan regime in its war against the Saharan people, Mohamed Abdelaziz said: After he concluded his visit to Morocco, enemy Prime Minister Shim'on Peres left 11 Zionist officers in Morocco to study the Saharan war with the Moroccan Army staff. He added that there are confirmed reports that indicate a high-ranking official of the Moroccan regime was accompanied by five Israeli officers when he visited the frontlines on Saharan territory. These confirmed reports also indicate the official in charge of the Moroccan troops received three Israeli officers in his office in the military operations zone. He added that these meetings confirm that there is strong cooperation between the Moroccan regime and Israel. The Polisario leader went on to say that there are confirmed reports that also show the Israelis are giving assistance to the Moroccan regime in terms of tactics, training, and military equipment. Concluding his news conference, the Polisario leader expressed his appreciation for and pride in the Syrian Arab leadership, government, people, and army, and praised the constant and unequivocal support provided by Syria for the causes of liberation throughout the world in general and in the Arab world in particular.

Delegation Departs

JN131701 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic
1515 GMT 13 Mar 87

[Text] Mohamed Abdelaziz, SDAR president and Polisario secretary general, and the delegation accompanying him left Damascus at noon today following a visit of several days to the Syrian Arab Republic during which he met with His Excellecy President Hafiz al-Asad. The SDAR president also held talks with a high-level delegation of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party headed by Comrade 'Abdallah al-Ahmar, assistant secretary general of the Ba'th Party, on relations with the Polisario, developing and enhancing these relations, and the overall developments in the Arab arena. The visiting Polisario delegation also met with a number of state officials. The SDAR president has seen off at Damascus International Airport by 'Abdallah al-Ahmar, assistant secretary general of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party; Comrade Dr Husayn Abu Hamid, member of the Ba'th Party Central Committee and doyen of the teachers union in Syria; a number of comrades of the Ba'th Party National Command; the Algerian ambassador and embassy staff in Damascus; and Polisario representatives in Damascus.

UK Protests Secret Service Forged Passport Use

TA142110 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 2100 GMT 14 Mar 87

[Text] The British Government has protested strongly to the Israeli Government over the fact that the Israeli secret services use forged British passports. This is reported by *The Sunday Times*, which reports that a pouch with eight forged British passports was discovered in a telephone booth in the FRG. Also in the pouch were papers linking the pouch with an Israeli embassy in a European country. The documents in the pouch were transferred to the British Government, and approximately 6 months ago, the Israeli ambassador in London was summoned by the British deputy foreign secretary who strongly protested the forgery and demanded an Israeli pledge that this would not be repeated.

The Foreign Office spokesman in London has confirmed *The Sunday Times* report and told our correspondent Mikha'el Almaz that the Israeli Government had indeed apologized for the incident and promised that steps would be taken to prevent its recurrence. The spokesman said the British Government sees this as the end of the affair.

The Israeli Embassy in London refused to comment on the report, as did people in the Foreign Ministry in Jerusalem.

Government Pursues Possible Reagan-Peres Meeting

TA151625 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1600 GMT 15 Mar 87

[Text] The Israeli Embassy in Washington has launched unofficial contacts in a bid to check the possibility that President Reagan might meet with Vice Prime Minister Shim'on Peres during the latter's scheduled visit to Washington in mid-May. Our correspondent in Washington reports that Mr Peres' itinerary already includes meetings with Vice President George Bush, Secretary of State George Shultz, and with congressional leaders.

Officials Continue To Respond to Pollard Case

Shamir Appoints Committee

TA131614 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1500 GMT 13 Mar 87

[Text] The prime minister gave letters of appointment this afternoon to the members of the fact-finding committee [va'adat berur] probing the Pollard affair and explained to them their jurisdiction.

Our political correspondent 'Oded Ben-'Ami reports that newsmen were not allowed near the prime minister's office in Jerusalem. Mr Shamir explained that he does not want the media to interfere with the committee's work so that it can be concluded quickly. The fact-finding committee is expected to start its work at the beginning of next week after its working procedures are taken care of, an administrative body is organized, and a supporting team is appointed.

Also at the beginning of next week, Ministers Rubinstein and Shahal will submit to the Ministerial Committee on Legislation a draft amendment to the law on commissions of inquiry so as to allow the fact-finding committee to swear in witnesses.

Reportedly Approved Sela'

TA160947 Tel Aviv 'AL HAMISHMAR in Hebrew 16 Mar 87 p 1

[Report by Yo'av Aviv]

[Text] Colonel Avi'em Sela' was appointed commander of the Tel Nof Air Force base with the knowledge and approval of Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir.

The *'Al Hamishmar* correspondent has learned that the invitations to the ceremony at which Sela' was appointed base commander were handed out against the will of Defense Minister Yitzhaq Rabin and with the approval of the chief of staff — apparently as a result of a misunderstanding. Nevertheless, it has been learned that senior Air Force officers and the outgoing Tel Nof base commander were told that the appointment of Sela' was still not a sure thing, that it might be postponed or canceled, and that in any case it was conditional upon Prime Minister Shamir's approval. The officers were told that Sela' would only be appointed finally as base commander once the prime minister returned from the United States and gave his consent. As is recalled, Col Avi'em Sela' was appointed Tel Nof base commander several days after Yitzhaq Shamir's return to Israel; hence his appointment was approved by Shamir.

Peres on Committee, Iran

TA132011 Jerusalem Television Service in Hebrew 1824 GMT 13 Mar 87

[Interview with Shim'on Peres, vice prime minister and foreign minister, by political correspondent Yig'al Goren; date and place not given — videotaped]

[Text] [Goren] Mr Vice Prime Minister and Foreign Minister, must the cabinet accept the conclusions and recommendations reached by the fact-finding committee [va'adat berur]?

[Peres] In the moral sense, definitely. I am, furthermore, convinced that the cabinet will do so.

[Goren] If so, sir, then why did you not support the establishment of a state investigation commission [va'adat haqira], rather than a fact-finding committee, so as to quell any doubts on the investigation of the Pollard affair events?

[Peres] For two main reasons: First, there is still room for secrecy insofar as this affair is concerned, and an investigation commission would require a very large mechanism, including lawyers, secretaries, and the like. However, we must ensure secrecy so that the investigation is proper, so that we do not fudge on the facts; second, because the need exists to reach the conclusions as fast as possible. In the Pollard affair — I believe and as far as I know there is no dispute over the facts, although there

may be differences of interpretation — the time factor is crucial. I believe a two-man committee on the level decided upon will be able to reach conclusions relatively quickly.

[Goren] Could we not have reached a decision on the establishment of an investigation commission or fact-finding committee without U.S. pressure? The impression here is that only due to U.S. pressure did the political echelon give in and concede to establish some form of inquiry.

[Peres] Look, we started out by admitting that a mistake had been committed. It is not as if the Israeli Government denied knowledge of the affair or claimed not to know what to do about it. The moment this affair was reported, the first thing we did was say: This was a mistake that we regret; it was a diversion from our accepted policies. We hereby announce the disbandment and cancellation of the unit that dealt with it, the men heading this unit no longer hold their positions, and we hope that such a thing will not recur. In other words, Israel never tried to gloss over the facts here or tried to justify itself; on the contrary.

[Goren] Sir, what angered the United States more than anything was the promotion of the Israelis involved in the affair. Why did you personally not take action to at least postpone these promotions, thereby halting erosion in bilateral relations?

[Peres] In one case I did, but this was not within my jurisdiction. In the other case, I think we simply made a mistake.

[Goren] Meaning?

[Peres] Exactly what I said.

[Goren] What do you think was the error that was committed? What was it that should have been done and was not done?

[Peres] I believe we should have waited on the promotion of these people until Pollard's sentence was out.

[Goren] Sir, how do you assess the current damage to our relations with the United States, and what should be done to correct it, if this is at all possible?

[Peres] First of all, it is necessary to go back to viewing this affair within the correct proportions. It is not all of U.S. Jewry that spied; there was only one spy who is of Jewish extraction, who is Jewish. But if a father and his son employed by the U.S. Navy were caught and they happened to be Catholic, if I am not mistaken, does that mean that the entire Catholic community in the United States should be held responsible? Nor can I understand this attempt to turn a charge against one individual into a collective sense of guilt. I do not accept this.

Once the storm subsides, I believe the affair will assume its correct dimensions. A grave error was committed, and the Israeli Government is trying to rectify it. With time and after this is done, things will appear differently, I hope.

[Goren] How much damage has been caused to Israeli-U.S. relations?

[Peres] A substantial degree.

[Goren] Has this already been felt or manifest in deeds?

[Peres] No. I must note that very many Americans have demonstrated a large measure of goodwill precisely at this difficult time, and I greatly appreciate this.

[Goren] Sir, whereas in the United States the President faced the nation, admitted his mistakes, and declared that he was obligated to provide the people with information, here in Israel three affairs cropped up one after the other and still the political echelon's message to the public is that those who should know about them do, while those who are in the dark should remain in that state. Why this difference?

[Peres] I see no difference; on the contrary, I believe we even anticipated the U.S. President. When word first got out about the affair, we wasted no time and immediately admitted our mistake. We did not tarry for a moment. Incidentally, I cannot recall a U.S. president ever speaking publicly about an issue that requires so much confidentiality as espionage. But we did not wait and immediately after we, or I, learned about the affair, we said it was a serious mistake for which we were sorry, and added that it would not be repeated in the future.

[Goren] Sir, once again in the context of the Pollard affair, criticism has been voiced on the so-called forum of prime ministers — the troika made up of Shamir, Rabin, and yourself — which, at least according to some media reports, has in fact appropriated the authoritative power in Israel and is primarily aimed at defense of its members. What do you think about these accusations?

[Peres] This forum was to a large extent formed by what one may today call the journalistic echelon. Just as there is the political echelon and the executive echelon, there also exists the journalistic echelon. But no such forum actually exists. In every respectable law-abiding country, foreign and security issues are discussed by the prime minister, the foreign minister, and the defense minister. The fact that, as it happens here, all three of them were, or are, former prime ministers makes no difference. But in all the Governments of Israel, without exception and throughout the history of this country, such issues were debated by such a forum.

[Goren] But some Inner Cabinet members have complained that this comes at the expense of reports to the Inner Cabinet as well as at the expense of briefings to the cabinet plenum and the Knesset.

[Peres] Look, each time a serious situation emerges, there will be some who complain. But some decisions must be adopted by a more exclusive forum because of their nature and because it is necessary to reach them speedily. It would be unthinkable for us to summon a 25-member cabinet or even a 10-member Inner Cabinet forum each time such issues need discussion. Yet whenever the Inner Cabinet requests a report, it gets it. I believe, additionally, that reports should be given.

[Goren] Is the Inner Cabinet fully briefed?

[Peres] The Inner Cabinet sought and received a full report in a session that lasted approximately 8 hours. I was told, although I did not check it, that the Inner Cabinet has been briefed four times on this affair over these past few months.

[Goren] Finally, sir, do you believe if we did not have a national unity government but, rather, a coalition and an opposition, it would have been possible to end the affairs we have been involved in over the past few years in the same way; or does the national unity government actually make it possible for a heated situation to be calmed down while the truth is not revealed and no conclusions are reached in the way they should be?

[Peres] I believe that if there had been a cabinet and an opposition the situation would have been simpler because things would have been clarified differently in the Knesset. I would like to tell you, Yig'al, that I realize people have been talking about a number of affairs, three to be more precise: the Shin Bet affair, Iran, and Pollard. Let me take one of those three, which took place during the days of the national unity government — the others happened before —the Iran affair. Now you tell me what the hullabaloo is all about. Today, after having read the Tower Commission report, not the reports on the report or the Israeli stories on the Tower report, I asked myself: Why all this commotion? It does not accuse Israel of anything. We never broke any Israeli law and we cooperated with the United States out of sincere and positive motives, but a discrepancy arose between the reports of the Israelis and the Americans involved. The U.S. report states, unequivocally in fact, that one of the Americans lived in a dream world and made things up. These are not my comments; I am merely quoting from the Tower report.

[Goren] So, sir, do you not infer from the Tower report that the affairs we have been involved in over the last few years are indicative of some sort of crisis or malfunction in the Israeli intelligence and security systems?

[Peres] Not necessarily. I would say this: Israel is undeniably in a unique and special situation. It is true we have an ongoing war, which is sometimes on a full-scale front and at other times on the terrorist plane. Even if you take the Shin Bet affair — and when I have the chance I will one day analyze it, but only when things are more quiet — how did it happen? Was it not the result of the fact that terrorists got on a bus and tried to kill everyone? Was this a case of someone volunteering to get involved, feeling happy about it? We are facing real problems, very serious problems, and some deriving from our political situation. Indeed, one of the more important conclusions I have reached is that we must place more emphasis on positive action such as the peace process, because the other actions are forced upon us, fall on our head, and we are obligated to tackle them, sometimes under very difficult circumstances. This is not my way of explaining or covering up mistakes we are guilty of having made. In the Pollard case, for example, there is no doubt in my mind that unbearably serious mistakes were made and that they must be corrected. But this is also why the fact-finding committee has been established.

[Goren] Will those who are found guilty of committing these mistakes also pay the price?

[Peres] I believe so.

Rabin on Sela' Immunity

TA161020 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1000 GMT 16 Mar 87

[Text] Defense Minister Yitzhaq Rabin has lashed out against the U.S. Justice Department statement that it is looking for more Israeli spies in the United States. It must be clear to the United States beyond any shadow of a doubt that there is no American or non-American citizen spying for Israel and against the United States, Mr Rabin said.

In a lecture to a conference of Hadassah women in Jerusalem, Mr Rabin added that there is apparently another reason — besides the Pollard affair — why U.S. Administration officials are not prepared to close this matter.

Rabin disclosed that a senior U.S. official involved in the prosecution of Pollard told two Israelis on separate occasions that as far as he was concerned, Colonel Avi'em Sela' could be the commander of the Air Force if Israel disclosed the names of additional Israelis involved in the affair.

Rabin added that Israel has made it plain on more than one occasion that it is prepared to allow the Americans to interrogate Col Sela', on condition that the agreement with Israel is abided and he is granted immunity, but the Americans declined the offer.

Eytan: 'Superiors' Knew of Activities

TA151105 Tel Aviv HADASHOT in Hebrew 15 Mar 87 p 1

[Report by Ilan Kfir]

[Text] "All my activities, including the Pollard affair, were carried out with the knowledge of my superiors." This was said over the weekend by Rafi Eytan. He does not intend to resign of his own will from his post as chairman of Israel Chemicals. Eytan hinted to his associates that he is not willing to serve as a scapegoat to cover up the knowledge and responsibility of others.

The government is expected to approve today the Inner Cabinet decision to appoint a fact-finding committee on the Pollard affair. Immediately after that the green light will be given for it to start its work. The technical details will be concluded today. The heads of the committee, Yehoshu'a Rotenstreich and Tzvi Tzur prefer to work in Tel Aviv with a small group of aides. The prime minister has undertaken to give the committee all the information concerning the affair, including documents. Shamir wants to make every effort to reach the conclusions as soon as possible.

Denies Media Remarks

TA151214 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1100 GMT 15 Mar 87

[Talk in the studio between moderator Arye Golan and military correspondent Shmu'el Tal — live]

[Text] [Golan] Rafi Eytan has spoken, but he is still not saying

much. Our military correspondent Shmu'el Tal is in the studio. You have heard Rafi Eytan's first reaction to the affair. However, let me ask you first whether those who are going to be interrogated are already ready for the beginning of the inquiry in the fact-finding committee?

[Tal] The appointed committee will apparently start summoning witnesses in the next few days. One can easily guess who will be summoned. The people in question are already busy preparing the material they will be asked to present. We should note that contrary to the Sabra and Shatila affair, where it took those involved a very long time to decide whether they would consult lawyers or let the Army represent them, this time the people involved in the Pollard affair are acting differently. Avi'em Sela' is being assisted by a lawer who has been representing his interests in the United States for the last few months. The brother of Sela' is also a lawyer, a partner in a well-known law firm, and it can be assumed that Sela' is receiving good legal advise. Incidentally, sources in the defense establishment have told us that Sela' will not be asked to resign. His associates have said he has no intentions of doing so of his own will.

[Golan] There was a demand to dismiss Rafi Eytan from the chairmanship of Israel Chemicals.

[Tal] Rafi Eytan has not been asked to resign. Nobody can suspend him except for the Israel Chemicals board of directors. Let us recall that Rafi Eytan was elected to this post, not appointed. Over the weekend there were many publications about so-called comments made by Rafi Eytan. Various remarks have been attributed to him and to his associates. Today Rafi Eytan clarified that whoever expresses himself is doing so on his own responsibility:

[Begin Eytan recording] I find it appropriate to say a few words because the wave of reports on me is full of inaccuracies and is necessarily harmful. I want to emphasize that all the reactions or statements attributed to me in the media were not made by me. I have nothing to do with them; they are not true. Regarding the Pollard affair, I have vowed to remain completely silent. I am not talking about it with anybody, certainly not with the media. What I have to say I will say only to the committee that has been authorized to deal with the matter and only to them. [end recording]

[Golan] This is all Rafi Eytan was willing to say. Shmu'el Tal, you have spoken with several of the people involved in the affair. Did you receive the impression that they will take advantage of the fact that the Inner Cabinet decided on a fact-finding committee rather than a state commission of inquiry?

[Tal] Not at all. The two committees will start their work in the next few days — both the Knesset Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee subcommittee and the Tzur-Rotenstreich Committee. All those involved in the affair said they will appear before the committees and will submit all the information they will be asked to give. One of the persons who is a potential candidate for the interrogation told us that those who will look for discrepancies between the testimonies given to the two committees will be disappointed.

'Official Sources' Pay Pollards' Costs

TA160522 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 0500 GMT 16 Mar 87

[Text] The Voice of Israel's political reporter says official sources in Israel have paid out tens of thousands of dollars to help defray the Pollards' legal expenses. The sources are said to have promised the Pollards that they will take care of most or possibly all of the Pollards' expenses and therefore the family's claims that Israel has abandoned them are unjustified.

U.S. Requests More Information

TA160931 Tel Aviv HADASHOT in Hebrew 16 Mar 87 p 3

[Report by Ilan Kfir]

[Excerpt] The U.S. Administration has asked Israel for additional information on the Pollard affair, claiming that Israel did not hand over all the documents that it was given by Pollard. Israel declared that it submitted to the United States all the material it had at its disposal.

Israel admits that concealing the identity of Avi'em Sela', Pollard's operator, was a mistake. The Americans are still insisting on their right to interrogate Sela'; they are refusing to grant him immunity and are adhering to the boycott imposed on him and the base where he serves. According to the Americans, when Pollard was first recruited in 1984, his recruiters showed him secret U.S. documents to give him the idea that Israel was also receiving classified security material from other sources.

The Rotenstreich-Tzur fact-finding committee on the Pollard affair begins its work this week. Dr Yehoshu'a Rotenstreich, who heads the committee, said the committee would make every effort to conclude its work within a short period of time. It is believed the committee will release its findings at the end of April. According to Dr Rotenstreich, the committee will concentrate only on aspects of the Pollard affair and will not investigate the history of the defense establishment's Science Liaison Bureau. [passage omitted]

Shamir Proposes Gulf of Aqaba Demilitarization

TA151040 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 15 Mar 87 p 1

[Report by the political correspondent]

[Text] Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir proposes to demilitarize the Gulf of Aqaba. Over the weekend, Shamir called on Jordan, Saudi Arabia, and Egypt to turn the Gulf area into an area of peace, together with Israel, by removing all weapons from it.

New Terrorist Group Reported in South Lebanon

TA160850 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 16 Mar 87 pp 1, 2

[Report by David Rudge]

[Text] Rosh Haniqra — A new terrorist group calling itself the

Civilian Resistance has surfaced in south Lebanon, according to reports from the region.

The anti-Israel faction is believed to have been responsible for an abortive roadside bomb attack inside the security zone earlier this year. Three terrorists involved in the attempt to plant bombs near the village of Markaba on January 18 were killed by fire from Israeli forces.

Sources in south Lebanon said the bodies of the three were returned last week through the Red Cross and a memorial service was held in Tyre last Thursday. Loudspeaker vans urged the town's residents to attend the service for the "Civilian Resistance martyrs," the sources said.

The term "civilian resistance" was used in 1983 by Shi'ite religious leader Shanykh Shams al-Din during the height of the Lebanon war.

Al-Din, regarded as a moderate in Lebanese terms, called on the predominantly Shi'ite population of the south to engage in a campaign of civil disobedience against Israeli "occupation forces."

Al-Din rejected cooperation with the Israeli military authorities and promoted a boycott of Israeli-made goods and agriculture produce. The movement had some success initially, but Al-Din himself came under attack for not being militant enough.

At that time radical and extremist groups were urging the populace to take up arms against the "invaders," and Al-Din's policies did not please his spiritual mentors in Iran. In early 1985, Al-Din visited Iran and was refused an audience with Ayatollah Khomeyni. The rebuff apparently led Al-Din, who is vice-president of the supreme Shi'ite spiritual council in Lebanon, to reconsider his tactics and take a more radical stance. He did meet with Khomeyini later that year.

The sources stressed that it was still not clear whether the Civilian Resistance group is related to the movement established by Al-Din, or is a new organization.

Peres: No Renewed South African Military Ties

TA151241 Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew 15 Mar 87 pp 1, 2a

[Report by Refa'el Mann and 'Ofra Yeshu'a-Lyth]

[Excerpt] "Israel will not renew military ties with South Africa in the future," Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres declared last night. "In the military sphere, the past cannot be changed; in the future, however, there will be no new arrangements."

Peres thereby made public Israel's decision not to sign any new contracts with South Africa in the defense sphere, although it will fulfill the agreements already signed. The foreign minister made these remarks in an appearance before members of the Hadassah women's organization in Jerusalem. [passage omitted]

Views Sanctions

TA151225 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 15 Mar 87 p 1

[Report by the political correspondent]

[Text] Shim'on Peres, vice prime minister and foreign minister, promised last Friday that Israel will not fall behind with regard to the punitive measures taken by the United States and Britain against South Africa's apartheid regime. In a talk with former Australian Premier Malcolm Fraser, who visited South Africa in the framework of a Commonwealth delegation, Peres said Israel is not a superpower and therefore it will not lead the struggle against South Africa, but he sharply criticized apartheid.

Fraser also met with Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir. In that meeting, Fraser criticized the white minority government in South Africa at great length. Shamir avoided going into the subject in detail, preferring to speak extensively about the situation in the Middle East.

Knesset Delegation To Visit Nicaragua in April

TA131729 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1700 GMT 13 Mar 87

[Text] A Knesset delegation will participate in the Interparliamentary Union meeting in Nicaragua next month. This will be the first Israeli parliamentary visit to that country since the Sandinist revolution. The delegation will include Deputy Speaker Me'ir Kohen-Avidov and Knesset members Haya Grossman, Simcha Dinitz, and 'Edna Solodar.

Our correspondent Gid'on Remez reports that the Nicaraguan authorities have thus far not sought a meeting with the delegation members. However, Ms Grossman will meet with Sandinists and will renew MAPAM's invitation for a Nicaraguan delegation to visit Israel. Such a delegation was scheduled in Israel earlier this year but canceled its visit after the affair of the transfer of money to the contras was revealed.

Oil Discovered in Commercial Quantities

TA160535 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0500 GMT 16 Mar 87

[Text] Oil in commercial quantities has been discovered in the Kokhav-29 oil well, north of the Helez oil field. Energy Minister Moshe Shahal believes it will produce several thousand barrels. The signs of oil were detected about 10 days ago at a depth of some 1,600 meters. According to experts, there are three layers of oil pockets at the site. The Tel Aviv Stock Exchange will be notified of the discovery today.

LIBYA

YAR President Salih Arrives 15 March for Talks

LD151307 Tripoli Voice of Greater Arab Homeland in Arabic 1230 GMT 15 Mar 87

[Text] A closed meeting was held this morning at the Gulf of Defiance [Gulf of Sidra] between the brother leader of the revolution and Colonel 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, president of the YAR, who arrived at the Gulf of Defiance on a visit to the Great Jamahiriyah. He was given a tumultuous welcome on his arrival.

Welcoming the president of fraternal Yemen with chants, the masses expressed the eternal unity of the one Arab people in the two fraternal countries and their joint stand against the enemies of the Arab nation. In their revolutionary chants, which rose to heaven, the masses affirmed their absolute belief in the comprehensive Arab unity and their strong determination to realize this unity sooner or later as the only weapon for protecting this nation and safeguarding its existence.

In their revolutionary chants, the masses reiterated that without the realization of this nationalist demand, the Arabs, their lands, and their resources will become prey to the ambitions of the imperialist and Zionist invaders, for only through unity will the Arabs liberate their lands and the Arabs take their proper place in the movement of history.

Makes Arrival Statement

LD151431 Tripoli Domestic Service in Arabic 1330 GMT 15 Mar 87

[Text] I have just received the text of the statement made by Colonel 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih to reporters on his arrival in the defiance Gulf [Gulf of Sidra] today:

We are pleased and happy to be paying an official visit to the great fraternal Libyan Socialist People's Arab Jamahiriyah to meet with the brothers headed by Brother Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi, leader of the great al-Fatih revolution. This visit will be a good opportunity to hold consultations and discussions on further consolidating the growing relations between the two fraternal countries and strengthening cooperation in all fields in fulfillment of our peoples' aspiration to achieve national objectives, and to make serious efforts to promote the best climate to clear the Arab atmosphere and to provide the necessary level of cohesion and solidarity to enable the Arab nation, with unity of ranks and views, to confront imperialist and Zionist plots and designs, and to make it stronger and more capable to safeguard its sovereignty, honor, and legitimate rights.

Colonel 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih added: If the Palestinian question, the Lebanese question, and the losing war between the two fraternal neighborly Muslim peoples in Iraq and Iran and the blood and resources it has consumed, which should have been used against the Zionist enemy and the plots hatched by the imperialist powers to weaken our Arab and Muslim nations. [Tripoli JANA in Arabic at 1510 GMT on 15 March at this point adds the following: and to peddle their schemes in the region — will be the focus of our discussions during this brotherly meeting, confrontation of the repeated imperialist aggressions against the Arab nation requires that we come out with a practical common concept in seeking to lay down a serious basis for the elimination of Arab differences and a clear concept of solidarity and agreement on the same objectives. This is essential for the fulfillment of all the national aspirations and for overcoming all the negative aspects of the Arab situation in respect of all issues.

We are highly confident that this visit will produce positive results for the existing warm relations between the two fraternal countries as well as for the Arab homeland and the other issues of common interest in fulfillment of all the Arab nation's aspirations to freedom, unity, progress, and peace.

Talks With Al-Qadhdhafi

JN151506 Sanaa Domestic Service in Arabic 1200 GMT 15 Mar 87

[Excerpts] Brother Colonel 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, president of the Republic, commander in chief of the Armed Forces, and secretary general of the General People's Congress, has arrived at Surt Airport on a state visit of several days to the Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriyah, heading a popular and official delegation in response to an invitation by his Brother Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi, leader of the 1 September Libyan revolution.

The brother leader, the secretary general, was given a large popular welcome led by Col Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi; Brother 'Umar Mustafah al-Muntasir, secretary of the General People's Congress; members of the General People's Congress; and other senior officials. There also were officers of the Libyan Armed Forces, a large number of citizens, and schoolchildren who carried pictures of both leaders and flags of Libya and the YAR and chanted slogans welcoming the brother secretary general and his delegation and the opportunity that brings the brother leaders Col 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih and Col Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi together on the land of the 1 September revolution.

Brother Col 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih left Sanaa International Airport earlier in the morning for Libya on a state visit. The president was given a large popular and official farewell, led by Brothers 'Abd al-'Aziz 'Abd al-Ghani, prime minister and Standing Committee member; Dr Hassan Makki, deputy prime minister and Standing Committee member; Dr Muhammad Sa'id al-'Attar, deputy prime minister, minister of development, and Standing Committee member; Lieutenant Colonel 'Abdallah (al-Bashri), chief of staff and Standing Committee member; members of the Consultative Council, the Standing Committee, the Constituent People's Assembly, and the General People's Congress; as well as high-ranking government and military officers. [passage omitted]

President Salih has told SABA' that he is visiting Libya in response to an invitation by Brother Col Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi, leader of the 1 September revolution, to discuss pan-Arab, Islamic, and international issues as well as to foster bilateral cooperation in various fields. They will seek to further strengthen close bilateral relations and exchange views on issues of mutual interest and those serving the democratic and develop-

mental goals of both peoples, the president added. He will discuss with the Libyan leader how best to bring about Arab solidarity in the face of challenges and dangers posed to the Arab nation. Talks will also deal with imperialist and Zionsit aggression against the Palestinian and Lebanese peoples and the destructive Iran-Iraq war between the two Muslim neighbors, the president pointed out.

He and Col al-Qadhdhafi will try to work out a common approach to these issues with a view to containing their repercussions and eliminating their causes as much as possible. His meeting with the Libyan leader, President Salih said, will examine the general Arab situation and how best to tackle intra-Arab differences at this critical juncture which requires a pooling of Arab efforts to protect Arab land and dignity, to recover all the usurped Arab rights, and to present a united Arab front against conspiracies, challenges, and dangers so the Arab nation will realize its ambitions of prosperity, stability, and peace.

Meanwhile, Col 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih and Col Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi held a closed meeting in Surt and discussed the close bilateral ties between the Libyan and Yemeni revolutions. They also discussed issues of common concern and the latest Arab and international developments, particularly the challenges facing the Arab nation. They expressed their deep satisfaction with the developing brotherly relations between the two sisterly countries and the close militant ties between the 26 September revolution and the 1 September revolution as well as their common struggle to thwart the plots inspired by Zionism and other anti-Arab forces and to further the aspiration of the Arab nation for freedom, unity, and progress.

Tripoli Notes Meeting

LD152215 Tripoli Television Service in Arabic 2000 GMT 15 Mar 87

[Text] This morning in the Defiance Gulf [Gulf of Sidra], a closed meeting was held between the brother leader of the revolution and Colonel 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, president of the YAR.

This evening in the Defiance Gulf, the brother leader of the revolution and Colonel 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, president of the YAR, held an enlarged meeting attended by Major al-Khuwayladi al-Humaydi. The meeting was also attended by the secretary of the General People's Committee; the assistant secretary of the General People's Congress; the secretary of the People's Congresses Affairs; and the secretaries of the People's Committees of the People's Bureaus for foreign liaison, public service, industry, and planning. From the Yemeni Arab side, the meeting was attended by Judge 'Abd al-Karim al-'Arsh, vice president, chairman of the Constituent People's Assembly, and member of the Permanent Committee; Dr. 'Abd al-Karim al-Iryani, deputy prime minister, minister of foreign affairs, and member of the Permanent Committee; Lieutenant Colonel Mujahid Abu Shwarib, deputy prime minister for domestic affairs, and member of the Permanent Committee; Dr Muhammad Ahmad al-Kabbab, minister of health and member of the Permanent Committee; Brother 'Ali Muqbil Ghuthaym, chairman of the central institution for supervision and auditing and member of the Permanent Committee; Brother Ahmad Muhammad Rida, the secretary general of the Presidency; and the YAR ambassador to the Great Jamahiriyah.

2d 'Closed' Meeting Held

LD161006 Tripoli JANA in English 0920 GMT 16 Mar 87

[Text] Surt, Al Marikh 16, *Jamahiriyah News Agency* — The second closed meeting was held yesterday between the leader of the revolution and Colonel 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, president of Yemen Arab Republic.

Al-Qadhdhafi Meets Sudan's State Defense Minister

LD132111 Tripoli Television Service in Arabic 2000 GMT 13 Mar 87

[Text] The brother leader of the revolution has received Brigadier Fadallah Nasr Burmah, minister of state for defense affairs in fraternal Sudan, who handed him a message from Brother al-Sadiq al-Mahdi, Sudanese prime minister.

The meeting was attended by the Sudanese ambassador in the Great Jamahiriyah.

Saudi Envoy Hears Protest of U.S. General's Medal

LD141427 Tripoli Domestic Service in Arabic 1330 GMT 14 Mar 87

[Text] The Saudi Charge d'affaires was summoned today to the People's Bureau for Foreign Liaison where he was informed of a protest against the visit of the head of the U.S. Joint Chiefs of Staff, General William Crowe, and the presentation of a high-class Saudi medal to him at a time when the United States has been pursuing a policy of international terrorism against the Arab countries, and aggresses upon their peoples.

Saudi Arabian King's Visit to Morocco Decried

LD152145 Tripoli Television Service in Arabic 2000 GMT 15 Mar 87

[Text] Saudi King Fahd is paying an official visit to Morocco these days during which he talks with King of Morocco Hasan II.

JANA's Arab affairs editor commented on that saying:

It is both repulsive and amazing to live with this attitude that governs the relationship of the Arab rulers with the pan-Arab cause. It is more repulsive to see some Arab rulers racing to recognize the enemy and to normalize relations with him in a deal that is the envy of the lowest and most arrogant human creature.

The editor said: Here is a ruler who travels to occupied Palestine where he embraces the Zionists and shakes their hands, and by that he desecrates the heritage of a nation, the sacrifices of generations, and a history full of defiance, for the sake of asserting itself. There is another who receives the most extreme Zionists one by one: from the tent of 101 km [where the Egyptian-Israeli first disengagement talks were held after the 1973 war] until the visit of Jerusalem, then the signing of Stable David

agreement, until the recognition and normalization with all its forms and colors. These rulers are racing within the framework of humiliation and submissiveness. The strongest of them is kneeling and the weakest cannot do anything for himself.

In the shadow of this reality, the traitors are received, shake hands, and the doors of palaces open for them.

JANA's Arab affairs editor added: Within the shadow of these humiliating circumstances, King Fahd visits Morocco and shakes hands with the one who conferred with Peres, hosted him and negotiated with him in the name of the Arabs and Muslims, while they have nothing to do with him.

How can we understand such a stance by King Fahd, who is the leader of an Arab country that has the characteristics of belonging to the Arab nation and which confirms that it belongs to that nation by its history and civilization?

Visiting, shaking hands with, and negotiating with King Hassan lowers and reduces the status of Saudi Arabia and the status of the highest official in Saudi Arabia, and is confirmation of an indirect recognition of the Zionist enemy. The one who invited Shim'on Peres, hosted and received him, and does not care to go further than that, then what might be the excuse of the others? [sentence as heard]

The natural place for the rulers who shake hands with the enemy of the Arab nation is to be boycotted, avoided, and ostracized, and not to be welcomed or to shake hands with them.

The rules of boycotting apply to the Zionist enemy and to those who recognized him, and primarily to the one who prepared for every step toward materializing the capitulatory course now prevailing in the Arab mind and restricting the Arab will during the most critical period of Arab history.

JANA's Arab affairs editor concluded his commentary saying: Where are the Arab rulers as the Arab cause is being sold in the slave market? Where are the Arabs when their reality reflects an era of losing their way and collapse, when some are slipping into treason as if they are entering the doors of Al-Qabah; they are sinning but they know what they do.

MENA on Continued Libyan Troop Presence in Sudan

NC141845 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1610 GMT 14 Mar 87

[Excerpts] Khartoum, 14 Mar (MENA) — Travelers coming from Darfur Province in western Sudan have affirmed that Libyan troops were still present on Sudanese territory as recently as last Thursday, despite the Sudanese Government's request for their withdrawal. According to these travelers, some 400 trucks were observed carrying these troops in the areas of Al-Junaynah, (Al-Tinah), (Kalabsh), and Wad Hura, approximately 200 km from the Chadian border.

Libya has claimed that its troops were only present to guard the relief convoys sent to the inhabitants of these areas. However, all signs indicate that these troops belong to what is called the Islamic Corps, a group of mercenaries from certain African states working against Chad's interests. The travelers noted that Libya's stand has encouraged other foreign powers to use Sudan as the scene for disputes which have nothing to do with it. [passage omitted]

In another development, Sudan's *Al-Adwa'* newspaper has reported that Brigadier Fadlallah Nasr Burmah, Sudanese minister of state for defense affairs, is currently visiting Libya along with Ahmad Sa'b 'Umar, a member of the Democratic Unionist Party Political Bureau. The purpose of this visit is to convey messages containing certain proposals, including an invitation for Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi and Chadian President Hissein Habre to meet in Khartoum to resolve the points of dispute between their two countries. The paper adds that the Sudanese Armed Forces have asked that the Libyan military force that penetrated the Sudanese borders near Chad leave the country immediately.

MOROCCO

Chad's Foreign Minister Arrives With Habre Message

LD152345 Rabat Domestic Service in Arabic 2300 GMT 15 Mar 87

[Text] The first deputy prime minister of the Republic of Cape Verde began a visit to Morocco that will last several days. He pointed out that his visit falls within the framework of consolidating the two countries' bilateral relations, recalling the close relations that link the president of the Republic of Cape Verde and King Hassan II and the fruitful results of the Cape Verde president's visit to Morocco.

Also arriving in our country today was the Chadian foreign minister, who carried a message from President Hissein Habre to King Hassan II. The Chadian official has expressed his satisfaction with the relations that link Morocco to his country.

SUDAN

Iranian Foreign Minister, Delegation Arrive

JN141513 Khartoum SUNA in Arabic 1418 GMT 14 Mar 87

[Text] Khartoum, 14 Mar (SUNA) — Iranian Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati and his delegation arrived here at 1100 today, Saturday, on a 3-day visit to the country during which he will hold talks with Sudanese officials on relations between the two countries.

In a press statement today, Al-Sharif Zayn al-'Abidin al-Hindi, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, welcomed Velayati's visit. He said: We hope the visit will be a good start for the two countries and will spare the blood of the two Muslim [Iraqi and Iranian] peoples. Al-Hindi added that during this visit the contacts begun during the recent visit to Iran by the prime minister and the energy minister will be completed. Al-Hindi also said he hopes the results of the contacts held by the prime minister and the energy minister will be a true example of cooperation and understanding among Islamic peoples.

'Ali Velayati expressed pleasure at visiting Sudan. He pointed out that the recent visit to Tehran by Prime Minister al-Sadiq al-Mahdi and Energy Minister Adam Madibu had a great impact on promoting bilateral relations.

In a press statement after his arrival in Khartoum today, Velayati said his talks with the Sudanese officials will deal with the promotion of relations between the two countries and coordination in international fields. Velayati hailed Sudan's role in entrenching Islam on the African Continent.

Receiving Velayati at Khartoum airport were Al-Sharif Zayn al-'Abidin al-Hindi and his excellency the Iranian charge d'affaires in Khartoum.

Talks With Al-Hindi

NC150707 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0330 GMT 15 Mar 87

[Text] Foreign Minister Mr Velayati, who arrived in the Sudanese capital from Greece yesterday, met and conferred with his Sudanese counterpart Al-Sharif Zayn al-'Abidin al-Hindi last night.

Our Foreign Ministry's Public Relations Office reports that during this meeting, which was also attended by the charge d'affaires, members of the Islamic Republic's delegation, and Sudanese Foreign Ministry officials, matters of mutual interest, Iraq's imposed war on Iran, and regional political issues were discussed.

In this meeting the Sudanese foreign minister referred to the expansion of bilateral relations since the downfall of Numayri's regime. He thanked the Islamic Republic of Iran for the steps it has taken during this period to broaden relations and expressed gratitude for our country's valuable, humanitarian assistance to the Sudanese nation in its efforts to cope with the drought.

Mr al-Sharif al-Hindi also noted his country's stand on the Middle East and confirmed Sudan's and Iran's coincidence of views on most issues, calling for further coordination between the two countries within international organizations, especially the ICO and the Nonaligned Movement.

During this meeting Mr Velayati also noted the growth of relations between the two countries since the downfall of Numayri's regime, describing the shared views of the two countries, headed by belief in Islam, as factors in the further expansion of these ties.

He added: Many powers are not happy with Sudan being a strong pillar of Islam in Africa, but we believe that despite their wishes Sudan will remain a strong shield against world arrogance. Mr Velayati said: We believe the African Continent is a continent of Islam, and if there is one path leading to the salvation of the oppressed African nations, that path is Islam; experience has shown the failure of other solutions.

Our foreign minister referred to the revival of Islam in many parts of the world and said: We, the Islamic Republic of Iran, support any Islamic movement in the world. He expressed the Islamic Republic's readiness to extend every possible assistance to the Muslim Sudanese nation to help in the country's reconstruction and to repair damage inflicted during the Numayri era. Mr Velayati also said: We are prepared to place our experience in the reconstruction of our country, on the basis of Islam, at the disposal of those countries requesting it.

Our foreign minister then discussed the Islamic Republic's views on Afghanistan, Palestine, Lebanon, Chad, and Namibia. On the war imposed on Iran by Iraq, he said: Our just demand is that the aggressor be punished and that the region be rid of the criminal Saddam regime.

During this meeting a bilateral political committee was formed to foster continued visits and exchanges of views. Mr Velayati invited Sudanese Foreign Minister al-Sharif al-Hindi to visit the Islamic Republic of Iran. This invitation was warmly welcomed and Mr al-Sharif al-Hindi announced his readiness to visit Tehran in Khordad [month ending 21 June].

Holds Talks With Al-Mirghani

JN151558 Khartoum SUNA in Arabic 1450 GMT 15 Mar 87

[Text] Khartoum, 15 Mar (SUNA) — State Council Chairman Ahmad 'Ali al-Mirghani and the State Council members today received an Iranian delegation led by Foreign Minister Dr 'Ali Akbar Velayati, currently visiting the country in the presence of Foreign Minister al-Sharif Zayn al-'Abidin al-Hindi. Following the meeting, Mustafa Hasan, director of the Foreign Ministry's Asia desk, said the meeting dealt with bilateral relations and ways to bolster and promote them.

Velayati renewed to Ahmad al-Mirghani the invitation extended to his excellency by the Iranian president to visit Iran. The date of this visit will be set later.

In another development, Constituent Assembly Speaker Prof Muhammad Ibrahim Khalil met with Iranian Foreign Minister Dr 'Ali Akbar Velayati today. Velayati said they discussed consolidating bilateral relations as well as views on supporting Islamic efforts to spread Islam on the African Continent and the exchange of visits by parliamentary delegations from the Constituent Assembly and the Iranian Majlis. The Iranian charge d'affaires in Khartoum attended the meeting.

Denies U.S. Arms Deal Claims

JN151918 Khartoum SUNA in Arabic 1740 GMT 15 Mar 87

[Text] Khartoum, 15 Mar (SUNA) — Iranian Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati has asserted that Sudanese-Iranian relations are strong and solid and based on cooperation in all political, economic, trade, and cultural fields. He pointed out that future relations between the two countries will also be clear and developed. This came in (?a press conference) [words indistinct].

Regarding Sudanese POW's in Iran, Velayati said in his news conference that there are investigative stages that must be passed and that those released during Al-Sadiq al-Mahdi's visit to Iran were freed as a symbolic action to confirm good intentions. Regarding the Sudanse initiative to halt the Iraq-Iran war, Velayati said Iran has a viewpoint that differs from viewpoints of other countries regarding the Iraq-Iran war. He added this war was imposed on Iran and that Al-Sadiq al-Mahdi's endeavors in this regard come out of his sincere love for unifying Muslim ranks.

Regarding the U.S. arms deal with Iran, Velayati said the claims of Americans and Israelis in this regard are untrue. He also said these weapons had been paid for since the shah's era, that their delivery was frozen, and that the Americans are now trying to use these weapons to approach Iran politically. Velayati added these weapons have become the property of the Iranian people. He pointed out Iran has no relations with Israel.

Regarding the return of relations between Iran and Egypt, Velayati said Iran has one condition before resuming relations with Egypt; that is, Egypt should cancel the Camp David accords and sever its relations with Israel. He said Iran is ready to reopen its embassy in Cairo directly after this measure is taken. He pointed out Iran harbors much respect and appreciation for the Egyptian people who have had heroic acts and glories in past and present times.

Regarding Iranian-Syrian relations, Velayati said: We do not support any tension in relations between the two countries. He pointed out that Syrian-Iranian relations are strong and fraternal and that both countries support the Lebanese and Palestinian peoples' struggle against Israel.

It is noteworthy that Velayati is currently on an official visist to Sudan heading a delegation in response to an invitation from his Sudanese countrerpart.

Talks With Al-Mahdi, Meets Press

NC160811 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian
0330 GMT 16 Mar 87

[Text] Foreign Minister Velayati, who is on an official visit to Sudan, met with Sudanese Prime Minister al-Sadiq al-Mahdi last evening. Issues pertaining to bilateral relations in the field of mutual cooperation at the political, economic, and cultural levels, as well as outstanding international issues, including the problems of Afghanistan, Lebanon, Palestine, and Chad, were reviewed and debated in the meeting. In this meeting, Mr Velayati expressed his admiration for the Sudanese people's movement, which brought about the downfall of the Numayri regime and made the Sudanese nation master of its own destiny. He explained the Islamic Republic of Iran's views on the problems and political crises of the Middle East, West Asia, and the African Continent, saying: The common factor in all the problems is that the aspirations and sovereignty of nations in forging their own destinies should be respected. Another salient factor is that crises should be solved within a regional framework so that the oppressive powers have no pretext to interfere in the problems of these nations.

In this meeting, Al-Sadiq al-Mahdi expressed hope that in view of the shared beliefs of Iran and Sudan their relations can be strengthened and these principles reinforced. He said he hoped this visit and the exchanges of various other delegations would serve to consolidate the link between the two Islamic countries.

Mr Velayati held a news conference yesterday afternoon in Khartoum, answering correspondents' questions. He began by saying that the Islamic revolution of Iran and the Sudanese people's struggle were efforts by these Muslim nations to return to their Islamic essence and to protect their independence. He said: The Muslim nations of Iran and Sudan have proven that the era of dictatorial regimes dominated by outside powers is over and that these oppressive powers can be resisted only through Islam. Mr Velayati said his visit to Sudan was aimed at further developing the harmony reached earlier during Al-Mahdi's visit to Tehran.

In response to a correspondent's query regarding the Islamic Republic of Iran's stance on the imposed war, Velayati said: Saddam announced at the outset of his aggression that a few small Irans were preferable to one huge Iran, and he forbade heads of Arab states to attempt any kind of mediation. At the beginning of the war he felt powerful, so he flouted the Algiers agreement; and now that he is in a dire condition, he is crying for peace. There is no guarantee that given another, similar opportunity, he would not perpetrate further aggression. Hence, the punishment of the aggressor and the deliverance of the region from the blight of the Iraqi ruling regime are the solution.

In answer to a question from an Egyptian correspondent on the strained relations between Iran and Egypt, Mr Velayati said:

The real hindrance to Iranian-Egyptian relations is the problem of Camp David, which is treachery against Arabs and Islam. If the Egyptian regime severs relations with Israel and crushes the Camp David accord, there will be no problems between us, he said.

Regarding rebels in southern Sudan, Mr Velayati said: We consider this problem a multifaceted plot by oppression against the sovereignty and territorial integrity, as well as the Islamic essence, of Sudan, and we believe the Mulsim Sudanese nation will succeed in foiling this plot.

Mr Velayati also met with Ibrahim Khalil, speaker of the Sudanese constituent majlis. During the meeting, Mr Khalil stressed that Velayati's visit had influenced relations between the two countries, saying: Prior to the victory of the Sudanese people's movement, we intently followed the progress of the Islamic revolution in Iran. He then noted Iran's immense contribution from the inception of Islam to date in promoting Islamic culture and civilization. He contrasted this with the 16 years of Numayri's rule, which resulted in the elimination of the true foundations of society and the freedom of the Sudanese nation. He said: Now, after 16 years, true representatives of the nation have been elected to the majlis, and so we desire greater cooperation and exchanges between the parliaments of the two countries to consolidate mutual ties.

Mr Velayati said he considered Numayri's downfall and the restitution of the Muslim Sudanese people's sovereignty a major gain for the Sudanese people and said: We believe a strong Sudan with an Islamic people's government is a great base for the African Continent, and the enemies know its implications. This is why they create problems for you in the south. He then noted the sensitive role of the Islamic Republic of Iran in the Islamic world and its geographical and political importance in the world. He said: It is because of this sensitivity that various conspiracies have been hatched against us internally and from abroad, the imposed war of Iraq being the greatest of these, since the initial victory of the Islamic Revolution.

He added: We attach great importance to our relations with Islamic and Arabic countries, excluding regimes like those of King Husayn and Husni Mubarak, who have always supported Saddam and resemble him in nature. In general, we have bolstered our relations with Islamic and Arab countries.

Mr Velayati said he welcomed exchanges between parliamentary delegations of the two countries and expressed hope that he would see more of these exchanges in the future.

Libyan-Chadian Talks Due To Resume Within 2 Weeks

JN141251 Khartoum SUNA in Arabic 1040 GMT 14 Mar 87

[Text] A second round of Chadian-Libyan talks within the framework of Sudan's efforts to mediate the dispute between the two countries and to find a peaceful solution to the conflict in Chad is to be held within the next 2 weeks. Quoting a high-ranking official who attended the talks held between the two sides in Khartoum which concluded Thursday, *Al-Siyasah* reported today that the negotiations went well. The two sides will report to their respective governments on the progress of the talks and Sudan's views on the dispute, it said.

ETHIOPIA

Mengistu Receives USSR Deputy Foreign Minister

EA142048 Addis Ababa in Amharic to Neighboring Countries 1600 GMT 14 Mar 87

[Excerpt] Comrade Mengistu Haile Mariam, WPE Central Committee secretary general, PMAC chairman, and commander in chief of the Revolutionary Armed Forces, today received and held talks with Comrade Anatoliy Adamishin, USSR deputy minister of foreign affairs, at the comrade secretary general's special office in the Grand Palace. They held extensive talks on the friendship of revolutionary Ethiopia and the USSR, and the existing strong relations between the parties, governments, and peoples of the two countries. Issues concerning Africa and the surrounding areas, world peace, and other general matters were also raised. [passage omitted]

Planning Official Departs for Budapest

EA131440 Addis Ababa Domestic Service in Amharic 0900 GMT 13 Mar 87

[Summary] A delegation led by Adis Tedla, WPE Central Committee Politburo member and deputy chairman of the National Committee for Central Planning, left for Budapest today to attend the second meeting of the Ethiopia-Hungary economic, scientific, and technical cooperation joint commission due to open 16 March.

Eritrean Radio Says EPLF Destroy Trucks, Tanks

EA161123 Voice of the Broad Masses of Eritrea in Tigrinya 0430 GMT 16 Mar 87

[Text] A heavy truck of the enemy was blown up by a landmine laid by engineering units of the EPLF in the Adi Quala area. In the truck, blown up on 9 March, one captain was killed and eight others wounded.

Apart from the vehicle blown up in Adi Quala, 42 enemy vehicles and 2 tanks were destroyed by landmines laid by the engineering units of the EPLF in the last 3 months.

Berhanu Speaks at Nonaligned Meeting in Guyana

For reportage on Ethiopian Foreign Minister Berhanu Bayeh's statements and meetings at the Nonaligned Movement Coordinating Bureau's conference in Georgetown, Guyana, see the Guyana section of the 13 March Latin America *Daily Report* and subsequent issues.

TANZANIA

Mwinya Returns From Indonesia, China, DPRK Visits

EA151721 Dar es Salaam Domestic Service in Swahili 1300 GMT 15 Mar 87

[Summary] President Mwinya returned to Dar es Salaam today following visits to Indonesia, China, and the DPRK.

UGANDA

Barter Trade Deal Signed With Egypt 13 March

EA131959 Kampala Domestic Service in English 1900 GMT 13 Mar 87

[Text] Uganda and Egypt have reached an arrangement for exchange of commodities worth $10 million. This was disclosed by President Yoweri Museveni at a press conference held at Entebbe Airport this afternoon immediately after his arrival from Cairo, where he attended the 22d bureau meeting of the OAU chairman and vice-chairman. The arrangement involves the exchange of various Ugandan agricultural and livestock products for Egypt's industrial items like drugs, tires and tubes, leather products, salt and electrical appliances.

The president reaffirmed the ability of Ugandans to successfully meet the terms of the arrangement because the produce marketing board will soon get lorries to transport farmers products from up-country and more money will be allocated to the board to increase its purchasing efficiency.

Answering a question on whether the government will negotiate with Ugandan Popular Democratic Movement rebels currently led by former Prime Minister Otema Alimadi, Mr Museveni observed that some Ugandan politicians are opportunists climbing on the backs of military and economic criminals to achieve their selfish ends.

The president was met at the airport by some cabinet ministers, the army commander, and other high-ranking government officials.

CAMEROON

Biya Welcomes French Prime Minister Upon Arrival

AB140958 Yaounde Domestic Service in French
0600 GMT 14 Mar 87

[Excerpts] French Prime Minister Jacques Chirac arrived for an official visit to our country early this morning. Mr Chirac's plane landed at Douala International Airport at 0600 [0500 GMT]. Our illustrious guest then took off for Yaounde where he arrived some 15 minutes later. President Paul Biya was at Yaounde Airport to welcome his French geust. [passage omitted]

After Cameroon, the French prime minister will visit Senegal. [passage omitted]

'Great Interest' in Visit

LD140942 Paris International Service in French
0800 GMT 14 Mar 87

[Text] Prime Minister Jacques Chirac is paying a lightning visit to Cameroon and Senegal. Paris is intent on stressing the particular importance of these two countries in Africa. Here is our special correspondent to Cameroon, (Henri Perioux). Cameroon is the first lap of Jacques Chirac's visit:

[Perioux] Yaounde enthusiastically and very warmly welcomed Prime Minister Jacques Chirac, whose plane landed very early this morning. The presence of Paul Biya, the Cameroonian head of state, at the gangway shows the great interest here in the visit, which may be short but will be busy nonetheless. There will be 2 hours of private talks followed by lunch at the Cameroon Presidency, and there will be plenty of opportunity to strengthen relations between the two countries.

By going to Yaounde, Jacques Chirac knows he fulfills the desires of a capital willing to maintain privileged links with Paris without simultaneously putting all its eggs in one basket.

President Biya has recently stepped up his visits abroad, to the United States in particular, and the invitation to foreign investors other than France calls up strong competition for France, the primary client and supplier. Finally, Cameroon intends to put this dynamism to the service of an active foreign policy in Africa, particularly regarding the settling of the Chadian problem. All this will represent many issues for discussion in Yaounde.

Chirac Departs 14 Mar

AB151130 Yaounde Domestic Service in English
0600 GMT 15 Mar 87

[Excerpts] French Prime Minister Jacques Chirac left the nation's capital yesterday afternoon for Senegal following a 1-day official visit to Cameroon. During his brief stay in the country, Mr Chirac held talks with President Paul Biya on the bilateral cooperation between Paris and Yaounde. [passage omitted]

Speaking during a toast, President Paul Biya thanked the French Government for its spontaneous interest in Cameroon's [word indistinct]. He reaffirmed that France is and will remain Cameroon's main cooperation partner and hailed the French support in Chad.

Mr Chirac, on his part, thanked President Paul Biya for personally coming to welcome him at the airport, referring to Cameroon's head of state as a prestigious leader.

CAR

Bokassa Trial Resumes Sitting 13 March

AB131245 Bangui Domestic Service in French
0600 GMT 13 Mar 87

[Excerpts] The hearing at the criminal court of Bangui resumes today at 1600 [1500 GMT] for the trial of Jean-Bedel Bokassa, the deposed emperor of CAR. The criminal court, at its 49th session yesterday, heard evidence from witnesses on the 10th, 11th, 12th, and 14th charges against him. Bokassa is accused of embezzlement of state property during his rule. This includes the crown jewels, worth 1.135 billion CFA francs, as well as uncut diamonds estimated at 1 billion CFA francs.

The deposed monarch, in his megalomania, also dipped his hands any time he pleased into state coffers and those of parastatals to the tune of up to 16.140 billion CFA francs. As if this were not enough, he also went into the marketing of diamonds by engaging in the massive exportation of precious stones. [passage omitted]

This afternoon, the 50th session will hear evidence from the officer in charge of the State Treasury under his rule in an effort to obtain clarifications and arrive at the truth.

CHAD

France's Aurillac Meets With Habre, Comments

AB122252 Ndjamena Domestic Service in French
1845 GMT 12 Mar 87

[Text] French Cooperation Minister Michel Aurillac arrived in Ndjamena today from Niamey, Niger. He was welcomed by Tahar Guinassou, minister of livestock and rural water, who is acting minister of foreign affairs and cooperation. At 1730, Mr Aurillac was received by the head of state with whom he had lengthy talks. After the audience, Mr Aurillac answered questions put to him by the national press. First, he told us about the topics of his discussion with President Hissein Habre. Let us listen to Michel Aurillac:

[Begin recording] [Aurillac] We reviewed with President Hissein Habre the world political situation, in particular the threats hanging over Chad because of the foreign aggression on its territory. We discussed the military assistance that France is giving the Chadian Army. This assistance is continuing at a regular pace, and it is in conformity with the committments we made. Of course, we also reviewed Chad's development policy. France is participating actively in this development. I recall that

for 1986 France's total assistance to Chad's budget amounted to approximately Fr156 million. For 1987, we began our assistance with an initial budgetary aid for which I signed the agreement this morning.

Finally, I announced to President Hissein Habre that France is committed to the reconstruction of the Abeche air strip, which is necessary for Chad's development, of course, because it will help eliminate the landlocked condition of the eastern part of the country. It is also necessary for the security of the country.

[Reporter] Mr Minister, how does France intend to contribute to Chad's efforts in facing some economic problems?

[Aurillac] France is already strongly committed to helping Chad overcome its economic problems, in particular through the rehabilitation of the cotton industry. You are aware that this a complex operation involving the French state, the Central Fund for Economic Cooperation, the European Community, the World Bank [words indistinct]. This operation, which also involves some financial commitments between Chad and the Central African Central Bank, is being carried out under satisfactory conditions. There were some minor technical problems, but they are being solved.

[Reporter] What can Chad expect concretely from France in the areas of health and education?

[Aurillac] In the area of health, we have embarked upon an immediate action. France is currently financing part of the rehabilitation work on Ndjamena Hospital. I recall that during my last visit, I noticed that Ndjamena Hospital was in very bad shape, because of the poor water sewage system. France is actively taking part in rehabilitating the hospital. France is also taking part in restructuring Ndjamena's water sewage system. We also have some projects being studied.

Regarding education, we have just dispatched a technical assistant to study how we can rehabilitate the basic educational system in Chad. Upon President Hissein Habre's request, we have just sent education advisers to each region. This step is aimed at raising the level of teaching in Chad.

[Reporter] Mr Minister, some days ago you were in Niger; today you are in Chad. Tomorrow, you are leaving for Cameroon. Why this diplomatic shuttle?

[Aurillac] I do not know if this is a shuttle. You know, I am not gifted for such things. I was on an official visit to Niger [words indistinct] are long-standing friends. That visit enabled me to (?discuss) French-Niger relations, which are very good, as I had the opportunity to say on Niger's radio and television. Of course, we were passing close to Chad, so I insisted on visiting President Hissein Habre [words indistinct]. I had a number of things to tell him concerning French aid, as well as positive things, as you can see yourselves. The prime minister is going to be on official visits to Cameroon and Senegal; I am joining him in Cameroon, and then I will accompany him to Senegal. [end recording]

Concludes Visit, Departs

AB141652 Ndjamena Domestic Service in French 0530 GMT 14 Mar 87

[Excerpts] French Cooperation Minister Michel Aurillac left Ndjamena yesterday after spending 24 hours in our country. A day earlier, he had signed a 750-million-CFA loan convention with our minister of finance and computer services. [passage omitted]

Mr Aurillac left Ndjamena yesterday morning for a brief visit to Abeche and Biltine. [passage omitted]

Foreign Minister Ends U.S. Tour; Comments

AB141138 Ndjamena Domestic Service in French 0530 GMT 14 Mar 87

[Text] Our minister of foreign affairs and cooperation, Gouara Lassou, ended his visit to Washington on 12 March. At a news conference in the U.S. capital, the Chadian minister stated that the Libyan barbarians are preparing for a large-scale offensive against our positions. Colonel al-Qadhdhafi is determined to recapture Fada, he said, regretting France's refusal to provide aerial cover beyond the 16th Parallel. This will change, he affirmed. The following is an excerpt from Mr Gouara Lassou's news conference. It was recorded in Washington by Pierre Rossy.

[Begin Lassou recording] Our American friends were very attentive to our briefing on the situation, and we thank them for this. As you know, it was very difficult to [words indistinct], but we have the feeling that we were well understood. We received with much relief the recent statement by French President Mitterrand, who said the solution to the current problem cannot be achieved without recourse to (?force). We hope this statement is tantamount to a change in the attitude of the French Government that would make it go beyond its current position. The current situation requires that all Chadians join together to confront the war of aggression and colonization that Libya is imposing on us. [end recording]

Fighting Continues North of 16th Parallel

FANT: 112 Libyans Killed

AB131405 Ndjamena Domestic Service in French 1340 GMT 13 Mar 87

[Communique No 45 issued in Ndjamena by the Chadian National Armed Forces High Command on 13 March]

[Text] As we announced in previous communique 44 of 12 March 1987, the valiant Chadian National Armed Forces [FANT] are determined to put an end to the whimsical acts of the Libyan slave-traders in the occupied territories. They intercepted an impressively large column of Libyan troops on the Mogoro-Bir Sora Road, in the direction of Ouadi Doum, where they inflicted heavy human and material losses on the enemy. The detailed tallies of the fighting are as follows:

On the enemy side, material losses: Four jeeps equipped with

106-mm guns were destroyed; five Toyotas equipped with ground-to-ground missiles were seized. Also seized were 4 Toyotas equipped with 14.5-mm guns, 1 Land Rover equipped with a radio, 12 Toyota troop carriers, and 128 light weapons. A Toyota equipped with an RF radio was also destroyed.

Human losses: Routed, the enemy thought it better to flee. However, they were chased up to Bir Sora, where the valiant FANT troops annihilated them. A total of 112 Libyans were killed, including 3 officers — 1 captain and 2 lieutenants: namely, Captain (Nahir); Lieutenant (Mahour Khalifa); and Lieutenant Mahamat (Frameh). Twenty-four Libyans were taken prisoner, including an officer, Lieutenant Brahimi Mahousouk.

On the allies' side: We deplore the loss of a martyr who fell gloriously on the battlefield. One soldier was wounded.

In spite of the crushing defeats inflicted on the Libyan aggressors, they are continuing their indiscriminate and desperate bombing operations. In the night of 12 to 13 March, they bombed Fada in three waves: at 2035 [1935 GMT], at 2340, and at 0315.

Because it is not time yet for the Libyan slave-traders to see reason and withdraw from our sacred land, the FANT are more determined than ever to annihilate them

Libyans Bomb Yarda

AB141936 Ndjamena Domestic Service in French 1846 GMT 14 Mar 87

[Text] The Libyan Air Force bombed the Yarda locality in the Borkou Region at 1645 yesterday. It resumed its (?inhuman) bombing of this same locality this morning.

FANT: Libyan Fighter Downed

AB141920 Ndjamena Domestic Service in French 1850 GMT 14 Mar 87

[Communique No 46 issued in Ndjamena by the Chadian National Armed Forces High Command on 14 March]

[Text] Following the total destruction of a column of Libyan slave-trading dogs, the valiant FANT today, 14 March 1987, at 1427 local time, shot down a *(?Mark 2)* fighter over Fada. Bombing by the Libyan troops of invasion will never stop the extraordinary performance of our fearless freedom fighters, who are determined to liberate the occupied portion of our country at all costs.

Issued at Bardai, 12 March 1987 [words indistinct]

GUNT: 4 Whites Among 25 Killed

AB141218 (Clandestine) Bardai Chadian National Radio in French 1130 GMT 14 Mar 87

["Communique issued by the GUNT" in Bardai on 12 March]

[Text] On 12 March, the National Liberation Forces intercepted a FAN unit led by an aerial spotter vehicle. The FAN elements had tentatively crossed the 16th Parallel northward and set out toward Mourdi. The clashes were violent (?and resulted in) the destruction of the aerial spotter vehicle and the killing of all its occupants, namely 4 technicians and 1 military adviser along with 20 (?soldiers), that is 25 killed in all. Another 11 men were taken prisoner, 5 vehicles destroyed, and 3 seized, including 2 equipped with U.S.-made 105-mm guns. Among the dead were four whites. The mopping-up operation is going on in the area of the fighting.

[Passage indistinct] It is obvious that the morale of the puppet forces is at its lowest.

GUNT: 23 Killed in Mourdi

AB151923 (Clandestine) Bardai Chadian National Radio in French 1826 GMT 15 Mar 87

[Communique issued by the GUNT Ministry of Information in Bardai on 15 March]

[Text] The GUNT forces are continuing mopping-up operations in the Mourdi sector. They have caused serious damage to the forces of the agent Habre, as is borne out by this new reckoning: 23 dead, among whom are mercenaries; 4 FANT soldiers killed; 1 foreigner of French nationality [taken] prisoner; 20 trucks damaged; 1 Velera brand truck and another vehicle equipped with a (?120)-mm cannon of American make captured.

Issued in Bardai on 15 March 1987 [by the] Ministry of Information.

GABON

Bongo Addresses Nation on Unity, Economy

AB131029 Libreville Africa No 1 in French 1230 GMT 12 Mar 87

[Excerpts] The Gabonese Democratic Party [PDG] is celebrating its 19th anniversary today. This anniversary celebration was marked, as usual, by military and civilian parades, which ended just a few minutes ago, as well as by an address to the nation by the founder of the sole Gabonese party, President Omar Bongo.

Addressing the nation last night, the head of state called on his fellow citizens and the financial organizations to strive to revamp the national economy and to fight the economic crisis. In his speech, he also dealt with national solidarity, a topic he is very much concerned about, to use his own words. [passage omitted]

Here is an excerpt of President Bongo's speech to the nation, in which he proposed some solutions to solve the economic crisis.

[Begin Bongo recording] It is by keeping our national unity and solidarity within the PDG that we shall succeed in overcoming the economic crisis. We must, as in the past, feel united and love one another and understand one another. We should cast our minds back and compare what we were in the past to what we have become today to see the good things that the PDG has done for us. [passage omitted]

We must develop the spirit of solidarity on collective as well as individual levels, in private and public sectors. In this regard, I would like to recall that foreigners who invested in Gabon have always benefited from the generosity of the state. They should participate today more than ever, more than in the past, in the national solidarity effort by guaranteeing employment for Gabonese nationals, by creating new job opportunities, by positively aiding in the Gabonization policy for national cadres. [end recording]

President Receives Envoys From Goukouni Oueddei
AB142134 Libreville Africa No 1 in French
1830 GMT 14 Mar 87

[Text] Maina Touka, one of the emissaries sent by Goukouni Oueddei to Libreville to meet President Omar Bongo this morning, told (Jean-de-Dieu Ndonvono), our reporter, about his audience with President Bongo and the message he delivered from Goukouni Oueddei to the Gabonese head of state.

[Begin recording] [Touka] President Goukouni Oueddei sent us from Algiers to Libreville to deliver a message to his brother, President Omar Bongo. He also took this opportunity to extend his gratitude for what President Bongo did and is still doing to bring about national reconciliation in Chad, keeping in mind the best interests of the Chadian people.

We were received by President Bongo this morning, and we took the opportunity to extend the fraternal greetings and gratitude of President Goukouni to President El Hadj Omar Bongo. We also took the opportunity to explain the recent developments in Chad on the political and military levels. We told him about Oueddei's determination to strive to activate the national reconciliation process in Chad in accordance with the historical statement made in Tripoli by President Goukouni Oueddei on 17 October 1986.

[(Ndonvono)] What, precisely, is the current military situation in Chad?

[Touka] The military situation in Chad is very complex. It is true that our troops are continuing to fight and to make greater efforts; they are attempting to unite all the political and military forces of Chad to drive the Libyan invaders out. In this regard, all the efforts made by all the sons of the country are aimed at this goal. We believe that if all our efforts are directed toward this goal, the Chadian forces will succeed in completely freeing Chadian territory. [end recording]

Bongo Arrives in Congo; Cooperation Discussed
AB142043 Libreville Africa No 1 in French
1830 GMT 14 Mar 87

[Excerpt] President Omar Bongo has been in Brazzaville since this morning for a 48-hour visit at the invitation of his Congolese counterpart, President Denis Sassou-Nguesso.

During this private visit to Congo, a visit which will conclude tomorrow, President Bongo and his host will discuss bilateral cooperation. [passage omitted]

BURKINA FASO

Soviets Visit To Study Hydroelectric Dam Project

AB142030 Ouagadougou Domestic Service in French 1300 GMT 14 Mar 87

[Text] The Burkinabe people have centered their efforts on the judicious use, control, and development of their potential. It is within this framework that the Poni Province has just been visited by a mission of six Soviet experts. The visit is to gather as much basic data as possible to determine the possibility of implementing the Nobwel Hydroelectric Dam project. This visit of the Soviet experts is the fruit of the discussions that the comrade president of Burkina Faso held with the Soviet leaders during his visit to the USSR. According to the experts who visited the site yesterday, there is no major technical obstacle to the implementation of this great project. If implemented, this dam will produce 3 million kilowatts per hour, with a power output of 60 megawatts; that is twice the total power output of the Kompienga and Bagere Dams, which produce 14 megawatts and 16 megawatts, respectively. The dam project will produce a little over the total 58 megawatts output of all the Sonabel [Burkinabe National Electricity Company] thermal power stations. The Nobwel Dam project, apart from its advantages for agriculture, animal breeding, tourism, fishing, and river transportation, will enable us to save the significant sum of 6 billion CFA francs spent every year to import fuel that runs all Burkina Faso's thermal power stations.

GAMBIA

Jawara Promises No Change in Foreign Policy

AB132057 Paris AFP in French 1748 GMT 13 Mar 87

[Text] Banjul, 13 Mar (AFP) — Gambian President Dawda Jawara has announced that Gambia's foreign policy will not change and reaffirmed his country's commitment to the Nonaligned Movement and the OAU. He was speaking on Friday in Banjul, at his first news conference following his reelection to leadership of his country. Sir Dawda added that his country has asked to join the West African Monetary Union (UMOA, which groups six member countries including Gambia's neighbor Senegal), which is a member of the Franc Zone. Talking about a possible SeneGambia confederation linking Gambia and Senegal, President Jawara pointed out that the two countries were currently continuing negotiations and discussions on the issue of economic and monetary integration, adding that the results should satisfy both parties. Such negotiations must be carefully carried out because of their complex nature, he said, pointing out that such negotiations took 10 years in other regions of the world.

Touching on domestic policy, the Gambian head of state also announced that a new cabinet will be formed soon. He said the new cabinet will consolidate the gains of the economic and financial recovery policy being implemented in Gambia with the assistance of the IMF and the World Bank. He also announced that the Gambia Workers Union, now dissolved, could be allowed again to carry out its activities.

President Dawda Jawara was reelected (for another 5-year term) as president of Gambia with 59.18 percent of the votes, while his party, the People's Progressive Party, won 31 of the 36 seats in parliament, in the presidential and legislative elections held throughout the country on Wednesday.

GHANA

Zambian President Arrives on 24-Hour Visit

Urges Support for Rawlings

AB130926 Accra Domestic Service in English 0600 GMT 13 Mar 87

[Excerpts] The Zambian president, Dr Kenneth Kaunda, has said that Ghanaians must give their unyielding support to the PNDC under the inspirational leadership of Flight Lieutenant Rawlings if they want their country to resume its role as the Black Star of Africa. President Kaunda was speaking last night at a reception in his honor at the State House in Accra. He urged Ghanaians with positive ideas to counsel Flight Lt Rawlings for the good of Ghana and Africa. The Zambian leader said he and his countrymen are proud of the leadership of Chairman Rawlings and what he is trying to do for Ghana and Africa.

According to President Kaunda, ever since Dr Kwame Nkrumah left the Ghanaian political scene, Zambians have observed the pathetic situation in which the country found itself. He declared: It was painful for me to see Ghana in this situation before the PNDC. And he asked: How could I be happy as a student of Ghanaian politics? Dr Kaunda continued: I wept, I mourned, because I am a sincere man. He added that if Ghanaians want their country to rise again, they must support young Chairman Rawlings. [passage omitted]

Dr Kaunda observed that Africans are very forgiving. This is demonstrated in the forgiving attitude of the Zimbabwe prime minister, Robert Mugabe, after the fall of the Ian Smith regime which failed to recognize the worth of black Africans. The same spirit of forgiveness is evident in Mozambique and Angola where white domination reduced the Africans to a nonentity.

President Kaunda criticized British and American policies toward South Africa. He said while the majority of the people in Britain and the United States are against apartheid, their governments remain a stumbling block to the eventual destruction of racism and oppression in South Africa. The Zambian president expressed his gratitude to the genuine friends of Africa in her struggle against oppression.

In his speech, Chairman Rawlings said that he is happy that Zambia, under President Kaunda, is still a moral force against oppression, racism, and apartheid in southern Africa. He again stressed Ghana's commitment to the liberation struggle on the continent. [passage omitted]

Comments on U.S. Base in Zaire

AB131406 Accra Domestic Service in English 1300 GMT 13 Mar 87

[Text] Ghana's revolution is on course. This is the view of the Zambian president, Dr Kaunda, at a news conference in Accra this morning, just before he flew back home after a 24-hour working visit to Ghana. He said although the visit was brief, it enabled him to learn about the political and economic development now taking place. There is no doubt, he declared, that the efforts of the PNDC are bearing fruit, and he called on all Ghanaians to support the ongoing process.

Answering a question about reports of U.S. plans to reopen a military base in Zaire, President Kaunda said the Frontline States are aware of the serious security problems such a situation would pose. They are therefore taking the matter up at the diplomatic level.

He repeated that the South African situation is a tragedy and in view of the intransigence of the regime, he does not see an immediate end of the problem. Dr Kaunda said the white settler minority in southern Africa is entrenched because of its economic might. However, because of the intensification of the liberation war, some have seen the writing on the wall and are leaving the country. Dr Kaunda said the Frontline States are aware of the military might of the apartheid regime, but collectively they would triumph because of what he described as political morality. He said because of this, the climate of understanding has been built up among the Frontline States, and with favorable international reaction and assistance from donor countries, apartheid will ultimately be defeated. Dr Kaunda was confident that the Frontline States are deriving their political strength from this sense of political morality and drawing up new strategies to overcome the atrocities of apartheid.

Addresses Military Officers; Departs

AB131544 Accra Domestic Service in English 1300 GMT 13 Mar 87

[Text] Addressing officers and men of the Armed Forces at the Burma Hall, [Zambian] President Kaunda urged them to continue to be pilots of Ghanaians and guide them to a better destiny. He urged the officers and men to let unity be their watchword. President Kaunda reminded them of the evil machinations of those bent on destabilizing the revolution. Such elements, he said, are bound to employ divisive tactics in order to derail the revolution. President Kaunda said with love, truth, social justice and fairplay, Ghana stands a good chance of winning its war against poverty and exploitation.

The Zambian leader stated that it is his belief that Chairman Rawlings is doing great [word indistinct] for Ghana and Africa. He declared: I have great love and respect for your young leader and he needs the support of all of you. President Kaunda said: Although Ghana, at a certain stage, lost its glory in Africa, he is happy that this has been regained under the inspiring leadership of Chairman Rawlings. He said he considers his visit as a pilgrimage. That is why he defied the racist threats of destabilization in his country to come to Ghana.

The Zambian leader also briefed the officers and men of the Armed Forces on the situation in South Africa. He said Africa has a responsibility and duty to help SWAPO and the ANC. President Kaunda expressed his gratitude to Zimbabwe and Tanzania for sending troops to Mozambique to help fight the South African-backed bandits. At this juncture, he emphasized the need for an African defense force in southern Africa to help the Frontline States fight the racists and their stooges.

The force commander, Major General Arnold Quainoo, assured the Zambian leader that an invitation to send Ghanaian troops to Mozambique will be given serious consideration. This is because the country owes the liberation struggle in southern Africa both moral and spiritual support. The force commander said the military is prepared to rebuild Ghana under the leadership of Chairman Rawlings.

President Kaunda, accompanied by Chairman Rawlings, inspected a guard of honor mounted by a detatchment of the Ghana Navy. He received the 21 gun salute before he emplaned. Also at the airport to see him off were Justice Annan and other members of the PNDC, secretaries of state, and members of the diplomatic corps.

Joint Communique Issued

AB131555 Accra Domestic Service in English 1300 GMT 13 Mar 87

[Text] In a joint communique, Ghana and Zambia have renewed the strong bonds of friendship established between them at the dawn of Ghana's independence and at the time the people of Zambia were struggling for their independence. Chairman Rawlings and President Kaunda noted with satisfaction that these bonds had continued to grow from strength to strength. The two heads of state pledged their determination to diversify and strengthen them further to the mutual benefit of their two countries and peoples. In this connection, they agreed to establish a cultural exchange program.

On African problems, Dr Kaunda briefed Chairman Rawlings on the grave situation prevailing in southern Africa. The two heads of state vehemently condemned the obnoxious apartheid policy of the minority white regime in Pretoria. They expressed the view that apartheid is an affront not only to the blacks in South Africa, but also to the black race generally. Apartheid is also a crime against humanity. It is thus imperative for blacks throughout the world to unite in the struggle to dismantle apartheid completely and to redeem the dignity of the black race.

In this connection, they hailed the heroic struggle being waged against the diabolical Pretoria regime by the African National Congress with the aim of establishing a free, nonracial democratic society in South Africa. The two leaders called for the imposition of comprehensive mandatory sanctions against the racist Pretoria regime. They condemned the use of the veto at the UN Security Council by the United States, Britain, and West Germany against sanctions.

Chairman Rawlings and President Kaunda reiterated their total and unconditional support for the Namibian people in their just

struggle for freedom and independence under the leadership of SWAPO, their sole authentic representative. They reaffirmed their support for Resolution 435 of the UN Security Council as constituting the only acceptable basis for a just and final solution of the Namibian problem.

Flight Lieutenant Rawlings praised the head of state of Zambia for his leadership role in the struggle of the Frontline States to safeguard their sovereignty and territorial integrity, which has been under constant threat and attack from the apartheid forces of Pretoria. On his part, President Kaunda expressed his deep appreciation for the active support given by Ghana under the dynamic leadership of Chairman Rawlings to the liberation struggle.

The two heads of state noted with regret the existence of areas of tension in other parts of the African Continent, particularly Chad and the Western Sahara. They agreed on the need for intensified efforts to find lasting solutions through peaceful negotiations. They also renewed their commitment to the principles and objectives of the Nonaligned Movement and the United Nations. They pledged to continue to make their contribution toward the maintenance of peace and international security and the establishment of a new international order.

Chairman Rawlings accepted an invitation from President Kaunda to visit Zambia at a date to be fixed later.

LIBERIA

Senators Oppose Bill To Ban Students Union

AB131054 Monrovia Radio ELWA in English 0655 GMT 13 Mar 87

[Text] Two members of the Liberian Senate have expressed their opposition to a bill which they say originated from the House of Representatives to dissolve the Liberian National Students Union, LINSU. According to LINA [*Liberian News Agency*], Senators Archibald Bernard and David S. Mayongai of Montserrado and Margibi Counties told a news conference, respectively, yesterday that such legislation could threaten national peace, stability, and harmony, as well as negate the present reconciliation efforts. Speaking at the Capitol Building, Senator Bernard said he was not personally in favor of the LINSU dissolution bill which is now before the Senate Committee on Education, and also because of the virtual directive from his many constituents including students who called on him to oppose the bill. He, however, warned students in the country against adopting an antagonistic approach toward problems facing the educational system and urged them to help in lobbying for assistance to improve and develop education in the country.

For his part, Senator Mayongai described the proposed LINSU dissolution bill as anti-students, and an attempt to violate the freedom of association provision of the Liberian Constitution. Senator Mayongai, who explained that a delegation of student leaders from Margibi County called on him recently in Kakata to express concern about the bill, said he will lobby and vote against the bill.

NIGERIA

Efforts To Calm Religious Tensions Continue

States Ban Open-Air Services

AB140738 Lagos Domestic Service in English 0600 GMT 14 Mar 87

[Excerpts] Open-air religious preaching, processions, and meetings have been banned in four states. The states are Bauchi, Niger, Kwara, and Gongola. [passage omitted]

In Gongola State, Governor Jonah David Jang appealed to the people of the state to shun all acts capable of causing a breach in the peace.

Railway Bans Preaching

AB150912 Lagos Domestic Service in English 0600 GMT 15 Mar 87

[Text] The Nigerian Railways Corporation has banned religious preaching in all its stations and coaches. The executive chairman of the corporation, Brigadier Saidu Balogun, explained that the aim was to forestall violence. He warned that any anyone who will contravene the order will be handed over to the police.

In the meantime, the Emir of Zaria, Alhaji Shehu Idriss, has appealed to the people affected by the disturbances in the town to exercise restraint and remain calm. Addressing the people of Zaria metropolis, Alhaji Idriss expressed sorrow over the tragic events.

Islamic Leader Calls for Peace

AB131603 Lagos Domestic Service in English 1500 GMT 13 Mar 87

[Text] The president general of the Nigerian Supreme Council for Islamic Affairs and Sultan of Sokoto, Alhaji Abubakar III, has appealed to all Nigerians to help maintain peace. In a statement today in Sokoto, the sultan said he was making the appeal in the wake of the disturbances in some parts of the country, involving particularly (?students), in which lives and property were lost. He emphasized the need for all Nigerians to live in total harmony with one another.

The sultan said the forces of destruction must not be allowed to destabilize the country. [Word indistinct] that Nigeria is a multi-religious nation, he said the citizens must be prepared to live in peace with one another and follow the teachings of their various religious.

Alhaji Abubakar noted that no true religions preach violence. He also appealed to government to ensure that the lives and property of law abiding citizens were protected.

The sultan (?condoles) with the families affected by the recent disturbances.

Anglican Appeals for Calm

AB140740 Lagos Domestic Service in English 0600 GMT 14 Mar 87

[Text] The archbishop of the Anglican Church, the Most Reverend B.O. Olufosoye, has called on Christians to keep calm and exercise restraint for the maintenance of peace in the country. In a statement released in Lagos yesterday, the archbishop expressed sympathy with all those who suffered losses during the disturbances in parts of the country. He described the incidents as shameful and expressed the hope that an investigation into the matter would yield results in conformity with the laws of the land.

Protection for Christians Urged

AB151736 London BBC World Service in English 1709 GMT 15 Mar 87

[Text] In Nigeria, the Roman Catholic archbishop of Kaduna, the Very Reverend Peter Yariyok Jatau, has demanded immediate government protection for the Christian community following a week of religious disturbances in the north of the country. At least 15 people were killed and churches and mosques destroyed in clashes between Christians and Muslims. In a message delivered at Roman Catholic Church services today, the archbishop said Christians had been subjected to a most inhuman, reckless, and brutal assault. About 100 churches had been destroyed, some people had lost their lives, others their property, and many had been forced to leave their homes. He called on the authorities to punish those responsible.

The clashes are said to have begun after Muslims accused Christians of misrepresenting Islamic beliefs. The BBC West African correspondent, who is in Kaduna, says it is clear that the Christian community suffered more. However, she says calm has now been restored in the state, and although the security forces were in evidence, church services went ahead today as normal.

Papers Demand Action

AB140857 Lagos Domestic Service in English 0600 GMT 14 Mar 87

[From the press review]

[Text] The recent religious disturbances in some parts of Kaduna State is the issue discussed by the *Herald*, the *Daily Star*, and the *Vanguard*. The papers condemn those behind the crisis and advise the government to ensure that they are brought to book. The *Herald* wants the Federal Government to set up a probe on the incident. It, however, warns that the findings of the panel should not be buried as in the past. The papers calls on religious leaders throughout the country to control their utterances in the interest of peace.

The *Star*, on its part, regrets that some Nigerians have turned religion, whose basic themes are peace and tolerance, into instruments of aggression. The paper says there is a responsibility on the part of the government not only to ensure that the situation is brought under control, but also to take certain measures to prevent a recurrence.

And the *Vanguard* commends the government for the way it handled the situation. It, however, believes such crisis management is not enough to solve the real problem. The paper therefore wants the government to attack the religious disturbances from the roots.

Also writing on the religious disturbances, the *Guardian* and the *Nigerian Voice* see the uprising as a deliberate act of provocation meant to plunge the nation into sectarian strife. The papers say those involved should therefore not be allowed to go unpunished. They want all Nigerians to realize that the country cannot afford another civil strife, whether religious, political, or ethnic. The *Guardian* appeals to the government to compensate the victims of the incident.

The *Voice*, on its part, advises the government to resist any attempt to sidetrack it from pursuing its policy of economic reconstruction.

Papers Commend Federal Action

AB151010 Lagos Domestic Service in English 0600 GMT 15 Mar 87

[From the press review]

[Text] The recent religious disturbances in some parts of Kaduna State continue to attract comments from newspapers. The *Mail*, *The Triumph*, and the *Concord* condemn the brains behind the crisis and call on the Federal Government to ensure that they are brought to book. The *Mail* and *The Triumph* commend the prompt actions taken by the government to contain the situation. They also commend the matured reactions of various religious leaders and express the hope that their followers received their appeals. The papers advise the government to look beyond the surface of the incidents in order to uncover the remote and immediate causes.

The *Mail* and *The Triumph* believe that the country cannot afford religious-inspired conflicts and therefore called on all Nigerians to give peace a chance.

The *Concord*, on its part, says the strained atmosphere generated recently by the utterances of certain individuals ought to have been read by security agencies as an unmistakable summons to alert. The paper, however, advises the government to resist any attempt to divert it from its set goals of economic reconstruction, social justice, and self-reliance. The *Concord* appeals to religious leaders throughout the country to put the unfortunate incidents behind them in the interest of the nation.

SENEGAL

French Prime Minister Holds Talks With Diouf

AB151933 Dakar Domestic Service in French 2000 GMT 14 Mar 87

[Excerpts] French Prime Minister Jacques Chirac arrived in Dakar late this afternoon for a friendly, working visit of several hours to the Senegalese capital. Mr Chirac was met on arrival by

President Abdou Diouf and members of the cabinet, parliament, and the diplomatic corps. After listening to the national anthems and inspecting the honor guard, Mr Jacques Chirac and his host entered the VIP lounge, where they held a first round of discussions. They then drove to the Palace of the Republic through the principal streets of Dakar, where large crowds had gathered since early in the afternoon. [passage omitted]

We have Iba Gueye direct with a report from the Novotel [Hotel]

[Gueye] We are at the Novotel, where the two delegations, led on the Senegalese side by Mr Jean Collin, minister of state and permanent secretary of the Presidency of the Republic, and on the French side by Minister of Cooperation Michel Aurillac, are holding a working session to examine bilateral cooperation between France and Senegal. [passage omitted]

Discusses Chad, Debt

LD151459 Paris International Service in French 1245 GMT 15 Mar 87

[Text] [Announcer] During his visit to Cameroon and Senegal, Prime Minister Jacques Chirac insisted on the fact that he received the unreserved approval of his discussion partners on France's policy in Chad. Here is what he said about this at end of his visit to Senegal last night.

[Begin Chirac recording] Everyone can see today that the problem of Chad is a Chadian-Libyan problem and is no longer an inter-Chadian problem. On this point, we have come to the same conclusion; we strongly hope a peaceful solution can be found, but we will not change our position — as long as President Hissein Habre asks us — which is to preserve the security of President Hissein Habre's regime south of the 16th Parallel. On southern Africa, I believe there is no difference of opinion, nor any difference in approaching the problem, between President Abdou Diouf and the French Government. [end recording]

[Announcer] One of the other points of interest during the visit was the African debt. On this, Jacques Chirac particularly insisted on the responsibility of the creditors in what appears to be the economic stifling of many countries.

[Begin Chirac recording] The responsibility for the debt of developing countries — this is also true for Latin America, not only for Africa — falls to a considerable extent on the creditor nations, which, in times of greater affluence, have often enticed debtor nations to borrow at excessive rates. Therefore, they shoulder an important part of the responsibility for this situation, and it is very unjust not to acknowledge this and take the ensuing consequences, especially because the extent of the debt is such that they are choking and stifling the nations in question. The existing procedures — and France particularly argues for this within the IMF and, of course, the Paris Club — on debt rescheduling, which is the case for nearly all debtor nations, particularly African countries, are useful but not yet sufficient. We want to increase the measures aimed at significantly alleviating the debt burden. [end recording]

Promises Increased Aid

LD151136 Paris Domestic Service in French 0900 GMT 15 Mar 87

[Text] Jacques Chirac has left Cameroon and Senegal and arrived in Paris. He left these two countries after giving assurances that the aid granted to these two African countries will be more important from now on. For example, the intervention of the French Aid and Cooperation Fund is to be increased by 40 percent in Senegal for 1987.

SIERRA LEONE

Universities Reopen Following 6-Week Closure

AB151250 Paris AFP in English 1230 GMT 15 Mar 87

[Text] Freetown, March 15 (AFP) — Classes have resumed at three Sierra Leone colleges which were closed by authorities January 28 following two weeks of violent student unrest. Students returned to classes Saturday at the schools — Fouray Bay College, Njala University College, and Milton Margai Teachers College — school authorities said. It was not known how many of the schools' 5,000 students attended the first day of classes.

The government ordered the schools closed after student protests sparked off by a hike in the price of school meals and government refusal to match the increase with higher meal allowances degenerated into rioting in several parts of the country.

At the height of the disturbances, government vehicles were destroyed and offices of the ruling All People's Congress Party were looted in two towns.

School authorities have ordered about 1,500 students who were attending the three colleges on government scholarships to reapply for the funds, a move some observers said could provoke new unrest.

TOGO

OAU Head Discusses Chad With Eyadema, Comments

AB151542 Lome Domestic Service in French 1900 GMT 14 Mar 87

[Excerpts] General Gnassingbe Eyadema, RPT founding chairman and president of the Republic, granted an audience to OAU Secretary General Ide Oumarou this morning. The audience took place in Lome, at President Eyadema's private residence. Mr Oumarou was ushered in at 0730 this morning by Yaovi Adodo, member of the Central Committee and minister of foreign affairs and cooperation. [passage omitted]

At the end of the audience, Mr Oumarou briefed newsmen on his discussions. He indicated that he came to Lome to discuss the OAU with President Eyadema and that the talks enabled him to obtain some advice from President Eyadema, as well as his encouragement to fulfill his mission as the African organization's secretary general. In a reference to Chad, the OAU secretary general said they discussed the conflict between that country and

Libya. Mr Oumarou also said no country can justifiably use any pretext whatsoever to interfere in the internal affairs of another state. Let us listen to the OAU secretary general's statement this morning in Lome:

[Begin recording] [Oumarou] As you know, President Eyadema is very attentive to all the OAU's activities. It is within this framework that he asked me to come to Lome to examine the life of the organization with him and to exchange views on all the developments in Africa. [passage omitted]

[Reporter] The Chadian issue is presently one of the (?most important) conflicts to be resolved by the OAU. What is your opinion on this issue?

[Oumarou] As you know, the Chadian problem has become more complex, especially because lives are lost every day on the battlefield in that country. As we have already said, and as it was acknowledged by the last OAU Ministerial Council, there is now a conflict between Chad and Libya. [passage indistinct] An appeal has been made for the settlement of conflicts through peaceful means, noninterference in other states' internal affairs, and — possibly — the improvement of relations on the basis of good neighborliness.

The OAU will now direct its action toward this goal so that all of the organization's member states can freely and in full sover eignty participate in the realization of the happiness of the African people. Chad has suffered so much and continues to suffer, and it is now urgent that we help restore peace and concord in that country and save it from all foreign interference. No country can justifiably use any pretext to interfere in the internal affairs of another country, especially when such interference is military. [end recording]

Diplomatic, Political Officials Appointed

AB131732 Lome Domestic Service in French 1230 GMT 13 Mar 87

[Text] By presidential decree signed today by General Gnassingbe Eyadema, RPT founding chairman and head of state, Samon Korto, member of the RPT Political Bureau, has been appointed RPT permanent director. Pali Yao Tchalla, member of the RPT Political Bureau and senior agricultural engineer second grade, has been appointed managing director of the Togolese Phosphates Corporation to replace Ogamon Bagnan. Atsou Koffi Amegah, super grade magistrate, has been appointed president of the Supreme Court. Yao Agbo, senior public administrative officer third grade, has been appointed ambassador extraordinary and plenipotentiary of the Republic of Togo to the PRC and DPRK.

MALAWI

EC Official Pledges Additional Transport Aid

MB141655 Dakar PANA in English 1612 GMT 14 Mar 87

[Text] Blantyre, 14 March (MANA/PANA) — The European Community vice president, Lorenzo Natali, has pledged more assistance to help Malawi improve its roads and rail transport for its imports and exports. The vice president, who is in Malawi for a three-day familiarization visit, had signed yesterday two road improvement and small scale business contracts with Malawi's finance minister in Blantyre. The finance minister, Dalton Katopola, who signed the two financing contracts, said: We have some economic problems largely arising from our being land-locked. Our convenient and cheapest routes to the outside world have been closed for some time, causing some bottlenecks in transportation.

Natali said that because of Malawi's efficient administration of the Community's funding and its development priorities, under the Lome III Malawi receive 114 million ECU's, one of the highest allocation made to ACP countries. Natali said that the community was assisting Malawi to improve its northern corridor for an access to the ports of Dar es Salaam, Beira and Nacala. An allocation of 14 million ECU's for the northern corridor project was made last January. He said next April a decision would be taken for allocation of 19 million ECU's for the same project. And in June the Community will decide on 40-45 million ECU's for the Beira corridor. A decision on an allocation of 25 million ECU's for the rehabilitation of the Nacala rail line has already been taken. Natali said his organisation had under Lome III allocated 110 million ECU's to SADCC member states for its planned development projects. Malawi will also get a share of this allocation, he said.

MOZAMBIQUE

GDR's Kleiber Hopes for Strengthening of Ties

MB130919 Maputo Domestic Service in Portuguese 1730 GMT 12 Mar 87

[Text] In Maputo today, Political Bureau member Jorge Rebelo noted that talks held with the visiting GDR Socialist Unity Party [SED] delegation have resulted in a better understanding of the reality within the two countries. Jorge Rebelo was speaking at the closing session of the talks that have been going on in Maputo for several days with a SED delegation led by Guenther Kleiber. The Mozambican party and state senior official also said the understanding resulting from the talks would lead to intensification of solidarity, friendship, and cooperation between Frelimo and SED and between the two governments and peoples.

In turn, Guenther Kleiber expressed his party's desire for further strengthening of cooperation with Frelimo and increased exchange of delegations between the two countries. The Frelimo-SED talks centered, among other things, on (?communications), ideological work, economic policy, cadre taining, and functioning of party and state structures.

Reviews Visit, Departs

MB131152 Maputo in English to Southern Africa 1100 GMT 13 Mar 87

[Text] The Political Bureau member of the Socialist Unity Party and vice president of the Council of Ministers in the GDR, Guenther Kleiber, says economic cooperation between Mozambique and the GDR is good. Speaking to journalists at a press conference yesterday, Mr Kleiber said during his 6-day stay in Mozambique, he held several meetings with government officials with much attention on Mozambique's new economic recovery program currently under way. Mozambique's economic policy, training of cadres, and the functioning of the state and party structures were also important aspects discussed in the meetings. Mr Kleiber left Maputo for Berlin yesterday after a week-long visit to Mozambique.

Renamo Claims Capture of Port, Sinking of Ships

MB140740 Johannesburg International Service in English 0630 GMT 14 Mar 87

[Text] The antigovernment Renamo movement of Mozambique says it has seized the northern port of Moma in the Nampula Province and has sunk three ships used to ferry government war supplies. In a statement issued in Lisbon, Renamo said it had destroyed the port installations and had killed seven government troops in the raid.

In other military actions in the central Provinces of Tete and Zambezia, Renamo said it had killed 71 government troops, 20 Zimbabweans, and 14 Tanzanians who were serving in Mozambique. In Zambezia's Chinde region, Renamo said it had beaten back a government offensive.

Swazi Planes Reportedly Supplying Arms to MNR

MB151214 Maputo in English to Southern Africa 1100 GMT 15 Mar 87

[Text] Aircraft of the Air Swazi Cargo, an aviation company based in Swaziland, are used for resupplying arms to South African-backed MNR terrorists inside Mozambique. A report in the latest edition of South Africa's weekly newspaper the *New Nation* is based on a debate in the Swazi parliament this week. The report says extraordinary member of parliament, Mr Msunduzeni Dlamini, questioned the communication minister, King Mtetwa, why Air Swazi Cargo was using the colors of the Royal Air Swazi Airways. The minister replied that the colors had been used to allow the cargo aircraft to fly freely without interference everywhere in Africa.

Mr Dlamini was also interested to know the planes fly at unusual times. The director of the Air Swazi Cargo denied that the aircraft of the company were being used to transport arms to the MNR. However, he accepted the company aircraft transport various [words indistict] quantities of goods to Mozambique, Botswana, Angola, and Kenya. He said his company abides [words indistinct].

NAMIBIA

SWAPO's Nujoma Rejects New Constitution

MB160731 Harare Domestic Service in English 2000 GMT 15 Mar 87

[Text] The president of the South-West Africa People's Organization, SWAPO, Comrade Sam Nujoma, has rejected South African plans to impose a new constitution in Namibia. In an interview with ZIANA recently, Comrade Nujoma stressed that his organization does not accept the racist South African plan, because it aims at delaying genuine independence for the Namibian people. The SWAPO leader said his organization demands free, fair, and democratic elections under the supervision and control of the United Nations as stated by the Security Council Resolution 435.

Meanwhile, a delegation of 12 white farmers and industrialists from Namibia met with SWAPO officials in the Zambian capital Lusaka on Friday to discuss the situation in Namibia. Speaking to newsmen after the meeting Comrade (Haged Geingob) SWAPO's Politburo member said the delegation of white Namibians also held talks with Zambian officials. He said the meeting was an attempt to find a common base of understanding and remove negative attitude against SWAPO by Namibian whites.

Nujoma: FRG Plans Namibia Nuclear Tests

MB141629 Luanda Domestic Service in Portuguese 1200 GMT 14 Mar 87

[Excerpt] SWAPO President Sam Nujoma said in Brasilia yesterday that the FRG intends to carry out nuclear tests in Namibia with South Africa's complicity. The Namibian political leader, who arrived in the Brazilian capital yesterday for a 24-hour visit to the Federative Republic of Brazil, has already been received by President Jose Sarney and Brazilian Foreign Minister Roberto Abreu Sodre. During the audience, Sam Nujoma congratulated President Jose Sarney for Brazilian intervention in preventing the FRG from proceeding with its project. In turn, the Brazilian foreign minister reaffirmed Brazilian support for the struggle of the Namibian people led by SWAPO against South African colonialism. The SWAPO president has already left Brazil for Buenos Aires, the capital of Argentina, as he continues his official visit to Latin America. [passage omitted]

FRG Denies Waste Dumping Plans

MB141642 Umtata Capital Radio in English 1300 GMT 14 Mar 87

[Text] The FRG Government has denied allegations that it planned to dump nuclear waste [as heard] in Namibia. The Foreign Ministry spokesperson says the government knows nothing about the accusations made by SWAPO leader Sam Nujoma. Mr Nujoma, presently visiting Brazil, yesterday told reporters he had asked the country to try to dissuade the FRG from plans to dump the waste in Namibia in cooperation with South Africa.

White Legislature Votes To Open Schools to All

MB131524 Johannesburg SAPA in English 1522 GMT 13 Mar 87

[Text] Windhoek, March 13, SAPA — The Legislative Assembly for whites in SWA/Namibia today voted in favour of opening schools to all race groups in the territory, defeating after a division an amendment tabled by the leader of the ruling SWA National Party [SWANP], Mr Kosie Pretorius.

The motion was introduced by SWANP member, Mr Frans van Zyl, and called forth the house to identify itself "unambiguously" with stipulations in their SWA/Namibian bill of fundamenta rights that race and colour would not apply as norms for the admission of pupils to schools.

In his introductory speech, Mr van Zyl said the depoliticising of the schools issue was the biggest strike forward on the road to a peaceful future for SWA/Namibia.

The time to desegregate schools was now, as the education river ahead would become deeper and more difficult to cross, he said.

Mr van Zyl and two SWANP members, Mr Fanie Vilonel and Mr Thinus Blaauw, voted in favour with the seven opposition Republican Party members against seven SWANP votes.

Mr Pretorius said afterwards that he did not view the motion as one of no confidence and the whites' administration would continue to control schools within the parameters of a SWANP congress decision which called for the protection of group rights.

The decision by the whites' Legislative Assembly was seen as major back-up for the central transitional government in SWA/Namibia to desegregate exclusively white educational institutions of the whites administration.

It was understood that legislation at central government level was underway to eliminate a clause from the whites' education ordinance that restricts entrance to the administration's schools to members of the white population group.

SOUTH AFRICA

Government Denies Naval Attache in U.S. Recalled

MB131236 Johannesburg SAPA in English 1229 GMT 13 Mar 87

[Text] Pretoria, March 13, SAPA — South African Naval Headquarters today dismissed reports that a naval attache in Washington had been recalled to South Africa as "speculation."

The attache, Cap Nicolas Vorster, allegedly ordered military manuals from an aircraft parts store owner, Mr George MacArthur Posey, 38.

Mr Posey is facing charges of contravening the anti-apartheid act, which bans the export of military-related items to South Africa.

He may be gaoled for 25 years and fined 2.25 million dollars.

Capt Vorster's diplomatic status indemnifies him from prosecution. Any request for him to leave the country would only be made after the trial.

A naval spokesman in Pretoria said: "At this stage I cannot comment on the situation as it is only speculation."

The manuals Capt Vorster allegedly requested were for the maintenance of generators for the General Electric J-79 engine used in *A-4* and *F-16* fighter aircraft and manuals for the *C-130* cargo plane.

Bishop Tutu Urges Reversal of Removal Policy

MB160729 Johannesburg SAPA in English 0619 GMT 16 Mar 87

[Text] Cape Town March 16 SAPA — The archbishop of Cape Town, The Most Reverend Desmond Tutu, yesterday urged the government to return District Six to the coloured community and to retain the suburb of Lansdowne as a grey area.

Archbishop Tutu was addressing the congregation and invited guests at St Marks Church in District Six, Cape, in honour of the church's centenary year.

Archbishop Tutu said St Marks was a symbol of God's will that the spirit of the people could not be removed from District Six.

"I urge the government of this land not to move the so-called coloured people out of Lansdowne, not to open old wounds or create new ones," Archbishop Tutu said.

Referring to the 21 years since the first removals from District Six to the Cape flats, he said: "It would be a wonderful 21st birthday present if the government would say we are reversing our policy, it was a mistake."

This would be a "tremendous act of statesmenship" he said.

Press Director Resigns To Support Independent

MB141304 Umtata Capital Radio in English 1000 GMT 14 Mar 87

[Text] Another Nasionale Pers [National Press] stalwart has resigned from the newspaper chain. Former managing director, Dawid de Villiers, has quit his job as a director to support independent white election candidate in Stellenbosch, Esther Lategan. He has told the chain's chairman that he knows under Nasionale Pers policy he cannot remain a director and support an election candidate who is not a member of the NP. Mr de Villiers says he has misgivings about the chain's close links to a political party.

Last week *Rapport* editor Willem de Klerk resigned from his post, saying he was not pleased with the state of Pretoria's reform program.

National Press Group Reacts

MB141306 Umtata Capital Radio in English 1100 GMT 14 Mar 87

[Text] Nasionale Pers [National Press] has responded to the resignation of one of its directors to support one of the New Nats [National Party] Earlier, former managing director Dawid de Villiers announced he was quitting his job to support independent white election candidate in Stellenbosch, Esther Lategan. He said he knows under the newspaper group's policy he cannot remain a director and support an election candidate who is not a member of the NP.

The newspaper group says it appreciates his honesty but feels it cannot now leave the ruling party in the lurch, just as election time approaches. Mr de Villiers also criticized Nasionale Pers' close ties to a political party. But the group says it feels that Nats are the best available instrument for security, reform, and well being in South Africa.

Mr de Villiers is the second Nasionale Pers stalwart to leave the group in a week. Earlier, *Rapport* editor Willem de Klerk resigned from his post, saying he was not pleased with the state of Pretoria's reform program.

WEEKLY MAIL carries 'Apartheid Barometer'

MB131845 Johannesburg THE WEEKLY MAIL in English 13-19 Mar 87

["Apartheid Barometer"]

[Text] **Detentions**

The current State of Emergency was nine months old yesterday. The government has refused to release the numbers and names of all those who have been detained under the Emergency regulations. Many of those detained on June 12 last year are still being held.

The minister of law and order, Adriaan Vlok, said in parliament that a total of 263 people detained in police cells since June 12 last year had been hospitalised since August 29. These consisted of 158 Emergency detainees, 39 held under the Internal Security Act, [ISA] one held under the Intimidation Act and 65 detained under the Criminal Procedures Act. He said the figure was correct as at February 10, 1987.

Detention and Imprisonment of Children

The minister of law and order, Adriaan Vlok, said in parliament that 58,962 people aged 17 or under were held in police cells awaiting trial in 1986. Last year the figure was 52,730 and in 1984 it was 62,136. The Minister of Justice Kobie Coetsee, said in parliament that a total of 2,677 children aged 17 or under, including 254 aged 15 or under, were being detained in prison as at October 15 last year. In addition he said that a total of 2,280 children, of whom 1,880 were black, were imprisoned with their mothers last year.

Banning of Persons

At the start of last year 10 people were living under Internal Security Act banning orders. On March 11, 1986, two Port

Elizabeth United Democratic Front leaders, Mkhuseli Jack and Henry Fazzie, were served with five-year banning orders. Jack successfully challenged his order in the Port Elizabeth Supreme Court. As a result the validity of several other banning orders fell away, while others expired during the year. By the end of 1986, no-one was living under an ISA banning order.

During 1985, a new form of banning order was introduced under the State of Emergency, restricting the movement of released Emergency detainees as well as their activities, occupation, utterances, attendance at educational institutions and presence at gatherings. In March 1986, when this Emergency was lifted, 68 people had been served with these orders, 61 of them in the Western Cape.

In terms of regulation 3(6) of the current Emergency, this form of banning order has been used more extensively. The government has refused to disclose the number of persons affected but the Detainees Parents' Support Committee believe it to be "several hundred".

In November 1986 in Johannesburg a new type of restriction order was used under regulation 7(1), forbidding persons affected from calling for the release of Emergency detainees and political prisoners, the lifting of the Emergency, the ending of conscription, the withdrawal of the SA Defence Force from the townships, the unbanning of the African National Congress, the scrapping of the tricameral parliament and from participating in several campaigns. At the end of 1986, 36 persons had been served with these orders.

Listing of Persons

In July 1986 a list of 180 persons was gazetted; the penalty for quoting any utterance of persons on this "consolidated list" is a prison sentence of up to three years. Of the 180 persons, 27 are in South African prisons, 32 are resident in South Africa, 98 are in exile and 23 are deceased.

Unrest Deaths

According to the South African Institute of Race Relations 39 people died in political violence in January bringing the total since September 1984 to at least 2,365. The institute stressed that the actual number could be higher than this, given the difficulties of gathering such data.

Complaints Against the SADF

The Minister of Defence, General Magnus Malan, said in parliament that 26 complaints arising from the activities of the troops in the townships had been investigated. He said these complaints involved allegations of murder, rape, assault, misconduct and unlawful search and seizure. In one of the two convictions for rape arising from a complaint, a soldier was sentenced to a fine of R80. The Minister said that "about" 24 SADF members had been tried and 17 convicted for "exceeding the bounds of duty while serving in the black townships." He also said there had been 168 civil actions against him or the SADF last year. One hundred one of these involved assault, indecent assault, molestation, rape, abduction, unlawful arrest and unlawful detention.

Prisoner of Conscience

Wilton Zimasile Mkwayi, 64 former ANC and SA Congress of Trade Unions [SACTU] leader, was detained in August 1964 and has been imprisoned on Robben Island since December 1964. Mkwayi, the son of a Port Elizabeth ANC member, left school in 1938 at the age of 15 and worked in Port Elizabeth and Cape Town as a stevedore, labourer, factory worker and clerk. In 1947 he joined the SA Railway and Harbours Workers Union. From then on, he played a leading role in the Council of Non-European Trade Unions (CNETU) and later in SACTU, organising workers in the railways textiles, tin and iron and steel industries. In 1952 he was elected Eastern Cape volunteer-in-chief of the ANC's Defiance Campaign. Over the next eight years he was arrested or detained five times for his role in strikes and ANC campaigns. In 1956 he was one of 156 people charged with high treason and was aquitted in 1961. He was SACTU national treasurer from the late 1950s until his arrest in 1964. When the emergency was declared in 1960 he narrowly escaped arrest, slipped out of the country and represented SACTU at the World Federation of Trade Unions. He later received military training; he returned to South Africa and became a member of the Umkhonto we Sizwe [MK, Spear of the Nation; ANC military wing] High Command. He escaped arrest at Rivonia in 1963 and from then on led the new MK High Command. In August 1964 he was arrested and was tried together with Lalloo Chiba, Mac Maharaj, Johan Matthews an Lalloo Chiba. He was sentenced to life imprisonment in December 1964. He has spent a total of over 23 years behind bars for his political views. He has a wife, Edith, and two children.

Banned Books, Publications and Objects

Resistance News Issue No 23 Winter 1987 (National Resistance Committee, San Francisco); *The Democratic Journalist* Vol XXXIII No 11 Nov 1986 (International Organisation of Journalists, Czechoslavakia); *The Newly Free Countries in the Seventies* (Karen Brutents); *Lenin's Doctrine on National Liberation Revolutions and Modern World* Book 7 (LPK - A Pavlinko); *A World to Win* (World to Win, London); *Azania Frontline* No 15 Jan 1987 (Azanian Liberation Support Committee); *How to be God* (George Mikes); *Christina's Escape, A Star for Christina, A Kiss For Christina, Christina's Torment* (All by Blakely St James). The following films were banned: *Witness to Apartheid*; *Final Justice*; *Felicity*; *I love You* (Euteamo); *TheMessanger*; *The Men's Club* and *Bliss*.

Unbanned: *The Sunday Hangman* (James Mcclure).

Information Bureau Issues 13 March Unrest Report

MB140736 Johannesburg SAPA in English 0823 GMT 14 Mar 87

[Text] Pretoria March 14 SAPA — The Bureau for Information's unrest situation report for the period 0001 to 2400 yesterday (March 13) follows:

A private vehicle of the PUTCO [Public Utility Transport Corp.] bus service and a Putco bus were hijacked in Dobsonville (Soweto). Police are investigating and no arrests were made."

"Unknown persons in a white Golf threw a petrol bomb at a

private home in Mamelodi (Pretoria). Damage was minimal and no arrests were made. No injuries occurred.

"Stones were thrown at the Takela School in Evaton (Vanderbyl Park) by unknown persons during an oral examination with the probable motive of disrupting the examination. Damage was minimal."

"A group of unknown blacks set a private truck on fire in Phola (Ogies). No arrests were made and police are investigating."

"Other unrest-related incidents, comprised isolated stone throwing at security force vehicles and buses."

14 Mar Unrest Report

MB150832 Johannesburg SAPA in English 0828 GMT 15 Mar 87

[Text] Pretoria March 15, SAPA — The Bureau for Information unrest report for the period 1h01-24h00 yesterday;

"A black man of approximately 20 years of age was stabbed to death by about 40 blacks in Chesterville (Durban). The body was afterwards set on fire with the aid of paraffin. Police are investigating. No arrests were made.

"Shots were fired by unknown blacks at a SAP foot patrol in Sharpeville (Vereeniging). Constable Klobotlo was wounded in the stomach. He is currently in a satisfactory condition. A black man was arrested.

"Constable M. Shili was wounded in his left ear when shots were fired at at a SAP foot patrol in Nyanga (Cape Town). He is currently in a satisfactory condition. No arrests were made. Police are investigating.

"A hand grenade was thrown at the house of policeman in Kagiso (Krugersdorp). It exploded in the livingroom. Several shots were afterwards fired at the house. The policeman was not in the living room at that stage and sustained no injuries. No arrests were made but police are investigating.

"The rest of the incidents comprised the stoning of buses and police vehicles."

15 Mar Unrest Report

MB161003 Johannesburg SAPA in English 0959 GMT 16 Mar 87

[Text] Pretoria Mar 16 SAPA — The following is the unrest report for the period 00h01 to 24h00 yesterday from the Bureau for Information, Pretoria.

"A group of black radicals threw stones at a security force vehicle in Alexandra (Johannesburg) yesterday. The occupants warded off the attack and a 24-year-old man was wounded and arrested.

"A 40-year-old black man sustained slight burn wounds when a group of black persons threw a petrol bomb at his house in Claremont (Durban). Damage to his house was minimal and no arrests have thus far been reported.

"The home of a security force member was also petrolbombed in the same township.

"Minimal damage was caused to Const. T. Mncwabe's house and no injuries or arrests have been reported.

Correction:

"Further to our unrest report of 14 March issued on 15 March:

The police reported that the man who was stabbed to death by about 40 black persons has been identified as Vusi Patrick Maduna, 21 of house 1556, section 1, Mumulanga, Pietermaritzburg.

"They have also pointed out that the incident occurred in Claremont and not Chesterville as was originally reported."

Press Comments on Current Issues, Problems

14 Mar Press Review

MB140715 [Editorial Report]

THE STAR on Treason Trial Duration

A page 12 editorial in Johannesburg *The Star* in English on 13 March says: "An extraordinary legal position is brewing over the Delmas treason trial, already remarkable in its duration and its crucial scrutiny of the politics of the United Democratic Front. This week it appeared that the presiding judge was told by one of the two assessors assisting him, Dr W. A. Joubert, that he (Joubert) had in 1983 signed a UDF petition against the 'Koornhof Bills' giving self-rule to urban black areas. Mr Justice van Dijkhorst thereupon ordered the assessor to rescue himself." "In the background lurks an ominous practical question — what if a retrial should prove desirable? Already the trial has been running since June 1985, and it is likely to end only after many more months. Most of the 19 accused, denied bail, have been behind bars for more than two years. Would justice really be served if they had to go through it all again.?"

BUSINESS DAY: Tendency To Simplify RSA Situation

"To represent SA abroad has been a thankless task ever since apartheid became a winning slogan, but lately, to judge from the number of people abandoning the cause, it has become well-nigh impossible," notes a page 6 editorial in Johannesburg *Business Day* in English on 13 March. The paper says the people abroad "succumb to the temptation to find rational solutions to an irrational situation." The South African Foundation's "man in Washington, John Chettle, is pleading for change at home to avert sanctions." Chettle believes that sanctions can be demolished if South Africa will do the following: "Lift the State of Emergency, release Nelson Mandela and others, scrap the Group Areas Act and the Population Registration Act, lift the ban on the ANC and other political parties, and begin good-faith negotiations with black leaders for a new constitution." But, "he does not say how the National Party is to be persuaded to abandon the

Population Registration Act, nor does he suggest why, considering the violence that erupted when the first State of Emergency was lifted, government should be in a hurry to lift the second. He does not assess the reaction of the right wing, or any of the thousand questions that induce doubt and paralysis in SA. From afar, it's all so very simple."

CAPE TIMES on SABC 'Red-Carpet Treatment' of NP

A page 10 editorial in Cape Town *Cape Times* in English on 12 March notes that "the ironic thing about the SABC's admission that its staff could have given offence in the interview with Mr Wynand Malan on Monday night is that, ideally, the admission should be redundant. In any normal society, it is routine to see public figures, including ministers, grilled, interrupted, cajoled and even harassed by TV interviewers." "In South Africa, of course, the government is given the sycophantic red-carpet treatment, to the extent that unchallenged mediocrity envelopes the screen, almost to the point where there is an overwhelming case for an annual Golden Sphinctre award for interviewing genuflexion."

Detentions To Maintain NP in Power

On the same page Gerald Gordon, Queen's Council, and Dennis Davis, associate professor of law at the University of Cape Town, write that there is concern about detention without trial since it "strikes at the very basis of the rule of law." They also point out that "the reliance by the South African Government upon having to lock up so many of its opponents and critics in order to maintain itself in power, is proof of the fact that it has lost all legitimacy." "For so long as it is committed to white supremacy, albeit on the reformed 1987 model of talking of group rights when it means a white veto over the entire political programme, it will be required to detain thousands of its genuine opponents to stay in power." The government "needs to justify the use of repression by more palatable arguments — hence the communist bogey and the total onslaught." "Detention without trial and a legal system based on the rule of law are complete contradictions. This has never been made more apparent than in Mr Vlok's disclosure that of 3,512 persons detained under Section 550 of the Internal Security Act only 159 were charged and only 21 were convicted of any crime during 1896."

CAPE TIMES: Support for PFP Manifesto

"The Progressive Federal Party has given a clear vision for the future in the release of its election manifesto," notes a page 10 editorial in *Cape Times*. "It has also given hope and a lead for voters looking for a peaceful, apartheid-free South Africa. In sharp contrast to the National Party and the right-wing parties, the PFP recognises that the only way out of the mess South Africa is in at present is for real reform to take place and for direct negotiations to be initiated, as a matter of urgency, between 'the acknowledged leaders of all sections of our South African people.'" "The PFP has unequivocally provided the direction in which South Africa must move if there is to be any real hope of eventual peace in our country."

CITY PRESS on Rent Boycotts

The page 2 editorial in Johannesburg *City Press* in English on 15 March says "there is now every evidence that the authorities have taken leave of their senses. At a time when statesmanship should be ruling supreme in turning the tide of violence and instability that is rocking the country, 'kragdadigheid' [a show of force] seems to be taking the upper hand. There is increasing talk of a flexing of muscles in dealing with the rent boycott that has been going on in various parts of the country. This is a very sensitive issue that should be delicately handled and negotiated — because it contains some very real dangers that could rock this country." "Over the last three decades we have paid enough rents to pay for the cost of constructing those matchbox houses tenfold. Nobody expects not to pay rates for services which local authorities have to perform. But we object to this perpetual system by which we should pay rents until we die."

DIE VADERLAND: Motor Sales Encouraging

A page 12 editorial in Johannesburg *Die Vaderland* in Afrikaans on 12 March says that "motor sales is a reasonably reliable barometer for the economy. Last month's 9 percent increase in motor sales, and in particular the increase of 13.3 percent in commercial vehicles, indicates that there is more optimism." But, "inflation remains the economic Achilles heel. There can be no growth without inflation. The question is whether inflation can be kept below 18 percent." "On the whole South Africans can expect a year of modest growth and more modest tax relief."

Criticism of PFP Manifesto

"The positive views in the PFP manifesto contain nothing which is not being pursued by the NP," says a second editorial on the same page. The PFP does not explain how it is to accomplish all its aims. *Die Vaderland* objects to "the PFP's attitude towards radicals," and does not believe that it will be capable of maintaining law and order.

BEELD on PFP Dissenters

A page 8 editorial in Johannesburg *Beeld* in Afrikaans on 13 March says "the alliance politics of the PFP is experiencing mixed success. What it wins in the form of a couple of independents, it loses by flaking away to the right and even to the NP." The paper points out that former PFP mayor of Sandton, Zoe Marchand, left the PFP because it is "frustrating to be in a party which is in no position to bring about change in the country." "This must be a like a blast of cold water for PFP leader Colin Eglin who talks as if he rules the country."

Terreblanche Likely To Take Over Right

Willie Kuhn writes in the "Political Image" column on the same page on AWB leader Eugene Terreblanche's attempts at reconciling the CP and the HNP saying, "it is no longer the retaliatory Terreblanche of the right wing who is attracting attention, but the reconciliatory, the accommodating, and the helpful Terreblanche. The characteristics are praiseworthy — and the maneuvering highly interesting." Kuhn believes that "the more acceptable Terreblanche makes himself as a right wing 'statesman,' the better his chances of capturing the whole right wing movement when impatience moves the obstinate Marais and Treurnicht out of the way." Terreblanche appears to be busy with "an ingenious consolidation of power." Kuhn warns that "perhaps Marais and Treurnicht should start fearing Terreblanche and not each other."

15 Mar Press Review

MB150507 [Editorial Report]

THE STAR: Police Infringe on Right To Protest

Harvey Tyson writes in the "Undercurrent Affairs" column on page 10 of Johannesburg *The Star* in English on 14 March that "the real issue in the Press-bashing this week was not censorship or even emergency rule. The principle at stake was the right of ordinary people to be able to protest against the common and accepted practice of imprisoning people without charging them or giving them a trial. The police believe that the right to debate detention without trial is suspended by the emergency regulations. If that were true, it would be best to cry 'police state' and flee South Africa. But the courts and Parliament and the Press still survive and the debate on justice and freedom should continue...whatever repressive rules any bureaucrat may design."

Forced Removals Continue

Barney Mthombothi says in the "All Things Considered" column on page 11 that Minister of Constitutional Development and Planning Chris Heunis "told Parliament last week more than 64,000 black people were moved last year in conformity with Verwoerdian apartheid designs to clean up South Africa. Six communities numbering 22,000 are still to be moved in the Transvaal. So the old policy was never abandoned after all. It must have been an uncomfortable task for the Government's chief reformer, and a damning indictment of the duplicity inherent in Nat [NP] policy. It was to emphasise its commitment to so-called reform that the Government gave the undertaking a few years ago that there would be no more forced removals. Now it has been found out."

Press Curbs Aimed At Public

In "From the Newsdesk" on the same page Peter Mann writes: "With the general election less than two months away, information in South Africa is so regulated that it is difficult to see how you can make adult judgments about the country. Newspapers, and especially those labelled English-language opposition newspapers, are under savage threat. The Government has run a campaign against us which has left many of our readers believing we are biased, that we wilfully twist and distort news. We don't. And anyone who believes the so-called Press curbs are aimed at newspapers is naive. The curbs are aimed at you. They are aimed at preventing you gaining fundamental information about uncomfortable things going on in your country."

WEEKLY MAIL: Worrall Seeks NP Leadership Change

"In their search for a position between the National Party and the Progressive Federal Party, the troika of independent candidates — Denis Worrall, Wynand Malan and Esther Lategan — risk ending up on the fence" says Patrick Laurence on page 5 of Johannesburg *The Weekly Mail* in English for 13-19 March. "Their high-sounding manifesto invites their categorisation as prevaricating draadsitters [fence sitters] more than it commends them as intrepid innovators." Laurence goes on to agree with Hermann Giliomee of the University of Cape Town who has pointed out that Worrall "may not be really interested in changing Nat policy, but rather in altering its leadership. Worrall is standing against Chris Heunis, one of those tipped to succeed President P. W. Botha. If he can defeat Heunis, or even expose his lack of popular appeal by reducing his majority substantially, he will all but eliminate Heunis from the succession stakes." That together with the possible elimination of Transvaal NP leader F.w. de Klerk, will "open the way for Worrall's former boss," Pik Botha. Worrall's reward may be the Foreign Ministry.

16 Mar Press Review

MB160705 [Editorial Report]

SUNDAY TIMES on Right-Wing Support

"Polls have shown with remarkable consistency since 1982 that about 16 percent of white South Africans support the far right and its primordial conservatism," says a page 18 editorial in Johannesburg *Sunday Times* in English on 15 March. "The battle against their baleful influence is one that has to be waged fiercly and consciously by the 84 percent of white South Africans who do not believe past failed policies can meet the daunting demands of the future or that protection of one's own interests necessarily implies the wholesale negation of somebody else's. Equally important, it has to be fought by the Government, in whose power it largely is to mould opinion, soften conflict and give clear moral guidance. Sadly, this has not happened in recent times. This ethical ambiguity in the Government is out of kilter with the majority sentiment of white South Africans, and Pretoria should know this. One cannot beat bigots at their own game and it is demeaning even to try."

Criticism of NP Attitude Toward Defectors

A second editorial on the same page notes that: "An establishment which says too much fuss is made of defecting intellectuals invites comparison with the Bourbons who hastened their own demise by stubbornly refusing to recognise the importance of historic events. Surely only complacency, arrogance — or both — can lead people to contemptuously dismiss as unimportant the loss of so many of the best and the brightest in the NP." "Any but the most out-of-touch, haughty and hubristic leadership would be impelled towards self-examination rather than dismissiveness by such rejection. Or has the preservation of power and privilege become and end in itself?"

Independents Threat to NP

"What can an independent do? That has been the one constant criticism so far of the Independent candidates who have suddenly sprouted," writes Harald Pakendorf in the "Another Voice" column on the same page. "The answer this week was made easier. They can make the SABC apologise." Pakendorf refers to the aggressive interviewing of independent Wynand Malan by SABC and its subsequent apology for its behavior. Pakendorf believes that the independents pose a threat to the NP and says: "Did the National Party really not know about the threat from its left, a threat which has nothing to do with the PFP and the NRP? That is the overriding impression, because why else is it fumbling, why else has it lost the initiative, why else is it suddenly talking about powersharing when there was no indication that this would be the major election platform?" The NP is "not faring well," and its problem may lie with the leadership which "may have become cut off from its ordinary voters."

Independents Example for NP

Martie Meiring writes on page 19 that the independents "have caused a dramatic crack in Nationalist solidarity." She believes that they stand for "lojale verset" (loyal opposition). "Within Nationalist ranks, the debate is raging above the fundamental issue facing the hierarchy. Does it fight the election on a right-wing stance, or does it take the courageous, but dangerous, 'left' road?" "The more energetic Nats [NP members] claim that their problem lies in convincing the electorate that the Government really needs a strong mandate to negotiate for powersharing because so many candidates appear to have to go to the voters with their hands tied behind their backs." "Many Nats agree that if the Government wants to go to the polls with more muscle, it will have to take a leaf from the Independent's (and the academics') manifesto and address the impasse that has arisen between itself and meaningful negotiation."

SUNDAY STAR on Bureau Pressure on SABC

John Qwelane writes in the "Just Jon" column on page 15 of Johannesburg *The Sunday Star* in English on 15 March on the pressure which the SABC is reportedly getting from the Bureau for Information. "That it should be now revealed the bureau is trying to dictate to the SABC causes me no anguish at all. The corporation is getting every bit of what it deserves. The SABC accorded the bureau a status it should never have had in the first place — repeating as fact what the bureau said, with no counter-checks." "The SABC and the bureau, despite their alleged differences, are in reality two sides of the same coin, thriving as they unashamedly do on nakedly one-sided stories."

THE SUNDAY STAR on NP Influence of SABC

"This was the week when the naked political bias of the SABC — if anyone entertained any doubts on that score — became more fully exposed to public view," says the Johannesburg *The Sunday Star* in English on 15 March in its page 16 editorial. "In contrast to an aggressively hostile interview with 'rebel' Nationalist MP Wynand Malan, the same TV interviewer kept virtually silent while talking to Mr Chris Heunis a few nights later. Last Sunday featured a servile eulogy of 'P.W., the man behind the name.' Almost daily there are fresh examples of bias or propaganda." "It is in the light of insights such as these that voters must view any National Party protestations of moderation and fair play. As its hold on power becomes less assured, as criticisms mount, so does its basic intolerance grow."

CP-HNP Pact Failure To Benefit NP, PFP

"Both the Progressive Federal Party and the National Party are cheering at the failure of the Conservative Party an Herstigte Nasionale Party (HNP) to reach a far-right election pact," notes political correspondent David Breier on page 17. "The PFP may benefit from the CP-HNP confusion because there has been evidence in some by-elections that traditional opposition voters sometimes vote for the Nats for fear of a far-right victory." "From the Nat perspective, the pact failure means the NP will win less of the 'scare' vote from PFP supporters. This may cost the Nats a few votes — but will be outweighed by the advantages of fighting the divided verkramptes [narrow-minded ones]."

Manifestos Confusing

David Breier says on pages 1 and 2 of the "Review" section that "all parties standing in the whites-only elections say they want reform — yes, even the Conservative Party and Herstigte Nasionale Party. But when the CP and HNP say they want reform, they mean they want more apartheid. When the Nats say they want reform, they mean they want more streamlined apartheid. When the Progs [PFP members] say they want reform, they say they want no apartheid." "On the key question of abolishing apartheid and race classification, the independents and other New Nats appear to be at one with the Progs." But, they do not agree on the State of Emergency. The PFP has always called for the end of the emergency while "the independents in their manifesto say emergency powers must be retained to secure stability during the 'transitional period.'" "The great paradox of the elctions will be that the much-vaunted Independents are closer to the CP and HNP on some law and order issues than they are to the Progs. Yet on the question of abolishing race classification, groups area and other discriminatory laws, the New Nats say the same thing as the Progs. This contradiction has sown more confusion. Are the New Nats going to form an alliance with the Progs one day — or are they more interested in going back to the Nats once they have made their point?"

MWU General Secretary To Stand for CP

The "Personality of the Week" column on page 2 focuses on the general secretary of the Mine Workers' Union (MWU), Arrie Paulus. Sheryl Raine comments on his decision to stand as a candidate for the Carletonville seat for the Conservative Party. Paulus says "'I think the Afrikaner and the white working class need a party in Parliament which can look after their interests. The National Party is no longer a working-class party. It is a capitalist party which looks after the capitalists, and the sooner the whites in South Africa realise that and get a right-wing party into Parliament the better.'" Paulus further says that he believes in "'separate development or partitioning. I see South Africa as Europe, where there are different nations living next to one another. Each governs itself.'"

Plan for Pik Botha as President

Peter Sullivan says in the "Sullivan on Sunday" column on page 3 that Denis Worrall, Wynand Malan and other "'new Nats'" are "a stalking horse for 40 MPs who will break away from the NP after the election to support Mr Pik Botha and accelerated reform." "Mr Pik Botha's chances have already improved. National Party politicians are looking to him for new vision." "After the election, the caucus may have new, young 'versnellers' [accelerators] more likely to support his candidacy than any other."

NP Focus on ANC

In the "Talking Cents" column on the same page Harry Schwarz says as the election campaign develops, NP speakers and literature concentrate on the ANC, even though no party in the election "supports terror and violence of the ANC." On the political, constitutional and economic fronts, the PFP is not only an alternative to apartheid but also to the system which the ANC or SACP wish to impose."

ZIMBABWE

ZAPU Official Denies Links With Dissidents

MB142052 London BBC World Service in English 1515 GMT 13 Mar 87

[From the "Focus on Africa" program]

[Text] The unity talks in Zimbabwe between Prime Minister Robert Mugabe's ruling ZANU and Joshua Nkomo's ZAPU have been creeping on toward a merger. A massive wedge was driven between the parties in the early 1980's by the activities of dissident guerrillas in Nkomo's stronghold province of Matabeleland and the heavy-handed approach of the government forces trying to (?winkle) the dissidents out. In the past 2 years the trouble has died down although there are still sporadic incidents. In Harare, Kwabena Mensah asked ZAPU's secretary general, Watchman Mabena, what the people of Matebeleland were hoping to come out of the unity talks:

[Begin recording] [Mabena] Well, first and foremost I think they think the harassment would die down.

[Mensah] The harassment of...

[Mabena, interrupting] The harassment of our people in Matabeleland. As you know, we have had a lot of killings and other things taking place there.

[Mensah] We have heard about that, say, 2 years ago. Are you saying that it's still going on?

[Mabena] Yes, and people are not out of this yet. Ndebeles are not out of this. They feel this issue will come up at any time as long as the situation remains confused as it is because they have been (?told) to get rid of the so-called undesirable elements, and these dissidents. This is what creates that situation.

[Mensah] But you are not saying that there are no dissidents.

[Mabena] I wouldn't say that, no. It is a matter of [words indistinct].

[Mensah] You feel that the linking of ZAPU with dissidents is a smear?

[Mabena] It is an unfortunate smear because they realize that it isn't our fault.

[Mensah] Is it not true though that there has been a certain amount of crossing of the border and attacks on members of the military and that the government felt that even it wasn't linking it with ZAPU, it was at least linking it with this area?

[Mabena] I want to say to you that (?when we) took over, when we took over, Muzorewa's men (?immediately) crossed in to South Africa [words indistinct] to come up with an answer to that one. And so if you are now [words indistinct] to destabilize us here, to keep us on the run to this end [words indistinct].

[Mensah] Are you blaming South Africa?

[Mabena] Yes. To me it is, yes.

[Mensah] And you would also blame Bishop Muzorewa's former supporters.

[Mabena] It is the same [words indistinct].

[Mensah] Some people would say you are just trying to pass the buck into somebody else now retired from politics because he is not in a position to answer you.

[Mabena] That is what it seems, but what it is [words indistinct] happening in politics.

[Mensah] Are you saying then that the dissident problem is being blamed on ZAPU, but that basically ZAPU has nothing to do with the killings in this area?

[Mabena] We would never, we would never. The killings to us is never and will not be in our records. It is not in our program.

[Mensah] Some people would say that ZAPU is not only bitter about the dissident problem and the way the government dealt with it, but they are still bitter about the losses of two successive elections and that these unity talks is all about ZAPU people trying to get positions in the government?

[Mabena] I don't think so, because if we were bitter we wouldn't have demobilized our boys, we wouldn't have handed over our weapons, we wouldn't have transferred our boys into Zimbabwe National Army, but we did so. We, in Zimbabwe, do not want to see the Angolan situation come up. After all, when you go into the game of politics [words indistinct] to accept that.

[Mensah] What do you think people in Matabeleland want from a unified party?

[Mabena] The people in Matabeleland, I want to (?tell you) that they are really happy. When you come to the question of employment, our people are suppressed and I think they will continue to [word indistinct] for years to come.

[Mensah] Are you saying they have been discriminated against?

[Mabena] They are being discriminated.

[Mensah] In what way?

[Mabena] In employment.

[Mensah] By the government?

[Mabena] By the people who are employed by government. [passage indistinct] [end recording]

Muzenda Says Troops Defending Beira Corridor

MB130714 Harare Domestic Service in English
2000 GMT 12 Mar 87

[Text] The acting prime minister, Comrade Simon Muzenda, says the Zimbabwean troops in Mozambique are there to help guard the Beira corridor against MNR bandits. He said it is the country's outlet to the sea. Comrade Muzenda told the visiting Polish delegation in the capital today that Zimbabwe will not allow the dissidents to tamper with the route. He expressed the hope that Poland and other socialist countries will assist with materials needed in the rehabilitation of the Beira corridor.

Cooperation Agreement Signed With Poland

MB131149 Harare Domestic Service in English
1115 GMT 13 Mar 87

[Text] The visiting Polish United Workers Party delegation signed an agreement of cooperation with the ruling party, ZANU-PF, in Harare today. The agreement, which covers cooperation in the fields of production, education, and information exchange, was signed by the ZANU-PF external affairs secretary, Comrade Didymus Mutasa, and by Comrade Stanislaw Bejger for the Polish party. Speaking at the signing ceremony, Comrade Mutasa said Zimbabwe will benefit from the agreement if the people make use of it. Under the agreement Zimbabwe will also be able to send students to Poland.

Increased Aid Promised

MB151801 Harare Domestic Service in English
1600 GMT 15 Mar 87

[Text] The leader of the Polish delegation which has been visiting Zimbabwe says Poland is ready to increase its support to the Frontline States which are victims of racist South African aggression. Comrade Stanislaw Bejger told ZIANA before departure today that his delegation's 5-day visit to Zimbabwe was fruitful, adding that it gave the delegation an insight into the situation in southern Africa and Zimbabwe in particular.

While in Zimbabwe Comrade Bejger signed an agreement on behalf of the Polish United Workers Party with the ruling party, ZANU-PF, giving the framework for cooperation between the two parties and governments.